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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Hostage talk hopes revived

Iran's chief negotiator on the U.S. hostages yesterday appeared to offer hope of a new round of talks.

Behzad Nabavi said Iran was waiting to receive proposals from the U.S. and would study alternative plans to cover guarantees they are seeking. Back Page

The Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy to Iran hopes to see Ayatollah Khomeini and hold a service for the four Britons imprisoned there.

Editor in crash

Louis Kirby, editor of London's evening paper, was taken into hospital in Shrewsbury with face injuries and shock after a car crash.

Dissident jailed

Dissident Alexander Lavut, who campaigned against alleged abuses of psychiatry in the USSR, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Chile reshuffle

The Chilean Cabinet resigned at General Pinochet's request to allow him to reshuffle the Government following his confirmation in power for at least another eight years.

'Escape deaths'

Three relatives of Afghan President Babrak Karmal were shot as they tried to leave the country, a traveller arriving from Kabul said.

No honours

Former Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz will be buried in private. Hitler's successor for 23 days died on Wednesday.

'Panic' jet jump

A Yugoslav who jumped from an airliner just as it had landed in Kuwait was said to be critically injured. He apparently panicked at the engine noise.

Motor boat deaths

Twenty-four died after a motor boat with at least 146 on board capsized on Christmas Eve in the southern Philippines.

Plane blast

An explosion in a toilet caused last Sunday's Caravelle airliner crash in northern Colombia, killing 70, the airline said.

Hunt collision

A woman rider was critically ill in Leicester after a car collided with horses at a Quorn hunt meeting. Three others were injured.

Pioneer dies

Swiss aviation pioneer Henri Dufaux, who with his brother Armand devised the first successful helicopter in 1905, died in Geneva, aged 101.

UFO 'meteorite'

An unidentified flying object spotted throughout England on Christmas night was probably a meteorite, RAF observers said.

Sales start today

Many London stores and nationwide retailers start their annual sales today. Page 2

New plans for Ali

Former world boxing champion Mohammed Ali said he studies the Koran seven hours a day and hopes to become an Islamic missionary.

Briefly . . .

Comedian Fred Emney, famous for his monocle and pompous manner, died aged 80.

New comet discovery was claimed by Roy Panther of Walgrave St. Peter, near Northampton.

Tidal wave struck Gingoog City in the Philippines, leaving 500 homeless.

BUSINESS

Closures force machine sales

Thousands of tonnes of second-hand factory machinery are being sold weekly at UK auctions and sales as factory closures continue.

Much is being sold abroad, particularly in the U.S. But an even greater tonnage is being sold for scrap as second-hand prices for a wide range of machinery have collapsed since the year's first quarter.

Agents and auctioneers say more enforced plant and equipment sales are in the pipeline. Back Page

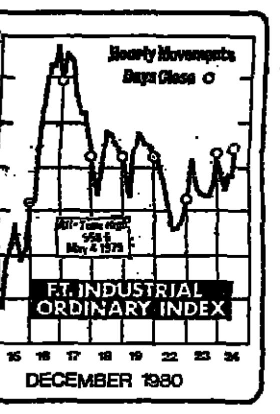
● STERLING rose 75 points from Tuesday to finish at \$2.3765 on Christmas Eve, its best level for more than a month. Its trade weighted index was 77.9 (78). Page 11

● DOLLAR: In quiet trading, before Christmas the U.S. currency closed at DM 1.9425 in London. Its trade weighted index was unchanged at 86.4. Page 17

● GOLD on Wednesday was unchanged at \$604.5 in London. Page 17

● GILTS edged higher in quiet trading before the holiday. The Government Securities index advanced 0.07 to close at 69.06. Page 18

● EQUITIES: The FT 30 share index gained 0.2 to close at



468.9 before the holiday. Page 18

● WALL STREET was up 1.20 at 964.25 near the close. Page 14

● EUROPEAN FERRIES has increased peak season fares between Dover and Calais by about 16 per cent. Page 3

● BARCLAYS BANK reports encouraging results in its experiment with electronic fund transfers carried out with big oil companies. Page 16

● TIMES NEWSPAPERS: At least one bid has been received before Wednesday's closing date. Page 11

● COAL OUTPUT in Britain keeps rising despite the slump in demand which is forcing the National Coal Board to cut production. Page 2

● THE GOLDSMITH COMPANY, which controls the London Assay office, is offering cash aid to the Birmingham Assay Office, which has been hard hit by the recession. Page 3

● TRADE SECRETARY John Nott has agreed to meet printing industry representatives next month to discuss problems facing book producers. Page 3

● BRITISH TEXTILE Confederation is to hold a special conference in Harrogate in March to examine how industry should prepare itself for the lifting of recession. Page 16

● CENTRAL HEATING industry is to set up its own Heating Industries Federation. Page 3

● CARRINGTON VIYELLA director John Wilson has resigned. Page 13

● HOUSE OF FRASER'S deputy chairman Professor Roland Smith has written to a pension fund executive to seek institutional investment support in Fraser shares. Page 13

● KANGRA International Holding has bought a near 15 per cent stake in Renwick Group, the motor cruiser manufacturer. Page 13

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES ON WEDNESDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES		
Assd. Leisure	128	+ 6
Bett Bros.	50	+ 4
Birmid Qualcast	25½	+ 4
Bowater	188	+ 4
Gt. Portland	210	+ 4
Harris (P.)	60	+ 8
Jardine Matheson	215	+ 11
Leyland Paint	31	+ 1½
Mercantile House	495	+ 20
Renwick Group	80	+ 7
Small Tidmas	65	+ 10
Gas Oil Acreage	470	+ 20
Ranger Oil	850	+ 10
Sovereign Oil	435	+ 15
Kitchener Mining	275	+ 25
North Kalgurli	89	+ 6
Randfontein	£40¾	+ 1¾
FALLS		
Owen Owen	106	− 4

Joseph in favour of £1.14bn state aid for BL recovery

BY ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

SIR KEITH JOSEPH, the Industry Secretary, is believed to have given his backing to the four year recovery plan for BL, put forward by Sir Michael Edwardes, the BL chairman. Officials from the main Government departments involved have been unable to reach a unanimous recommendation on BL's request for more state aid. They have now put a price tag of over £1.14bn on the package called for by Sir Michael.

In a report to Ministers, the officials—with those from the Trade Department dissenting—have recommended that BL should be given the first tranche of £520m for 1981, together with provisional Government agreement to another £420m in 1982. The total cost of the Edwardes plan, they estimate, would be far less than the cost of closure.

But neither Sir Keith, nor his advisers, seem to have complete confidence that the plan will succeed as Sir Michael hopes. They have warned that industrial relations problems could wreck what chances it does have.

In those circumstances, the current strike at Longbridge by 1,500 workers could strengthen the resolve of those Ministers already preparing to argue against the acceptance of the whole scheme.

Sir Keith's advice to his fellow Ministers that BL should receive more aid seems to be based largely on the grounds that the costs of closure would be unacceptable both in financial and social terms. His best hope seems to be that the plan might enable the Government to rid itself of responsibility for BL by the mid-1980s. The plan, he apparently believes, could provide the Government with a breathing space as well as saving jobs.

But he is believed to have been advised by officials that it is very unlikely that BL will become commercially viable within the next five years.

Even so, both the Think Tank and the majority of members of the inter-departmental committee set up to consider the question, have concluded that the Government has no real alternative but to back Sir Michael—as long as the unions do not undermine his strategy.

According to the inter-departmental committee, the cost of closing BL could be more than twice as much as the cost of rescuing it, even allowing for the proceeds of asset sales.

Ministers have also been advised that they risk losing Sir Michael as chairman if they do not give him the money he needs to launch the new middle range car in 1983.

The inter-departmental committee has been studying the plan for some weeks. But it was unable to reach agreement on the main recommendation, with the Department of Trade believed to have been in favour of refusing BL the money. That view could well be indicative of the kind of arguments the package will come up against in Cabinet.

The committee's report showed that, on top of the £940m BL wants for the next two years, it needs another £200m in the following two. The Edwardes plan itself talks about a return to profitability by 1983 with further substantial reductions in the workforce.

The committee estimates that as many as 70,000 jobs could be lost at BL itself if the company were forced to close, with as many again being lost at its suppliers. Closure could force many companies in the West Midlands to shut, as well as at least one of British Steel's major plants.

The inter-departmental committee concluded that BL should be given at least the money it wanted for 1981. But officials appear to have taken the view that the plan offers the Government only an even chance of ridding itself of responsibility for BL at some time in the future.

The Cabinet is to consider BL's future shortly. Sir Michael has already indicated that he would himself tell the

Continued on Back Page

Talbot launch, Page 2; French car production slumps Back Page

Zurich airport in flight to gold

BY DAVID MARSH

PROSPEROUS ZURICH, whose streets are fabled to be paved with gold, can now boast the rarity of an airport that is actually lined with the yellow metal.

To free their customers from a controversial bullion tax, introduced at the start of the year, the big Swiss banks have built up large stocks of gold from all over the world in transit warehouses at the airport, on the city outskirts.

Some banks say the bullion, stockpiled in tax-free stores, presents a security problem. Others say the operation has led to extra costs but point out that, because of thorough airport security, the warehouses are probably better guarded than their own vaults in the city centre.

The unorthodox storage operation arises from the 5.6 per cent tax on domestic bullion transactions introduced last January as a revenue-boosting measure by the Swiss Government. The tax has to be paid on sales of gold handled in Switzerland and also whenever gold is imported by anybody other than registered wholesale dealers.

The tax surprised and angered the banks. They warned that it would divert bullion business elsewhere and damage Zurich's position as a gold-dealing centre.

Hectic activity and high prices in the early part of the year led to larger-than-expected receipts from the tax. A total of SwFr 35m (£8.4m) was collected in the first six months, compared with the originally projected yield for the whole year of SwFr 10m.

Banks and their customers have, however, become more adept at circumventing the tax. The simplest method is for gold entering Switzerland to be stored in duty-free areas at the airport where, legally, it is not held as having entered the country.

The tax has affected particularly travellers importing gold from the Middle East on flights from Beirut. Many of these "carriers," as they are known in the trade, early on in the year imported the metal unaware of the tax.

Continued on Back Page

£ in New York

—	Dec. 26	previous
Spot	\$2.3760-3810	\$2.3700-3750
1 month	1.20-1.40 pm	0.95-1.15pm
3 months	1.90-2.10 pm	1.90-2.20pm
12 months	2.00-2.50 pm	2.00-2.50pm

World sales of jet airliners down by £3bn

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

WORLD-WIDE sales of new jet airliners throughout the past year have amounted to just over 500 aircraft, worth about \$13bn (£5.55bn).

This is well below the previous year's record of over 750 airliners firmly ordered or optioned, worth over \$20bn (£8.54bn). But it is still regarded as a satisfactory performance in the middle of a recession which has severely hit airline revenues.

The world's airlines are collectively estimated to have lost close to £1.1bn during 1980, and their capacity to pay for new jet equipment has thus been severely eroded.

Nevertheless, they are being obliged to consider re-equipment plans. The soaring cost of fuel is making existing, ageing fleets increasingly uneconomic, while new noise legislation will make existing fleets unacceptable at many airports by the mid-1980s.

Together with the firm orders for over 600 jets in 1978, and the 1979 total of over 750, the cumulative inflow of new orders and options in the past three years has been close to 2,000 aircraft—worth an estimated \$50bn (£21.35bn).

This represents about half the 4,000 new "front-line" jet airliners, worth over \$100bn (£42.7bn), expected to be ordered by the major airlines to meet their fleet replacement needs by the mid-1980s.

If the number of smaller feeder-liner, commuter-liner, and business and executive jet and turbo-prop airliners expected to be bought over the next few years, is added to this total, the overall civil market is expected to be in excess of 6,000 aircraft—worth more than \$150bn (£64bn), including spares and support equipment.

Despite the recession, therefore, the world's civil aircraft manufacturers are hopeful of better times in the years ahead.

While the effects of the recession are still evident in many countries, there have been signs that re-equipment has begun to accelerate after the slack period in the middle of this year.

One major U.S. airline, Delta, has already settled its short-haul jet requirements by ordering 60 of the new Boeing 757 twin-engined short-range jets. But several other U.S. airlines are considering similar large purchases. They include American, United, Continental, Northwest, Pan American and Trans World.

Some of these deals will come to fruition in the early part of 1981. They are likely to encourage other airlines to place orders so as not to be left at a competitive disadvantage. This is why the manufacturers are confident of a better year in 1981.

The major feature of the past year has been the continued success of Boeing as the world's biggest jet manufacturers. During 1980, Boeing won new orders for 325 jets, worth \$8bn

Continued on Back Page

JET AIRLINER SALES*

		1979	1980	1980 value (approx.)
Boeing	707	1	—	—
	727	110	83	—
	737	76	100	—
	747	79	44	—
	757	— (a)	72	—
	767	51	26	—
		317	325	\$8bn
Airbus Industrie	A-300	221	86	\$3bn
	A-310			
McDonnell Douglas	DC-10	93	36	—
	DC-9	85	35	—
		178	71	\$1bn
Lockheed TriStar		35	21	\$1bn
Totals		751	503	\$13bn

* Includes all announced sales and options where known. Some sales to undisclosed customers are not included.

(a) British Airways' and Eastern Airlines' orders for 757s were counted in 1978.

Euro Court may decide on French budget share

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

A SHOW-DOWN in the European Court over the European Parliament's budget-fixing powers now appears virtually inevitable after France's refusal to contribute to the extra expenditure decided on by the Assembly.

In a statement protesting against "grave misuse" of Community procedures, the French Government has said it would stick by the last budget levels approved by the Council of Ministers.

This means keeping this year's supplementary budget, geared partly to helping the victims of the Italian earthquake disaster, at 100m units of account (about \$140m) and rejecting a further 266m units of accounts which the Nine's ministers failed to agree on and which Mme. Simone Veil, the Assembly's President, decided to implement.

France, which is counting on the backing of West Germany and Denmark and to a lesser degree the three Benelux countries, was yesterday the only member to have officially challenged the Assembly's right to set the spending figure. The extra budget spending is supported by Britain, Italy and Ireland.

M. Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, has taken the lead on the issue at the cost of a public row with Mme Veil, who was previously Health Minister in M. Barre's government and who headed the UDF list of Giscardian candidates at the June 1979 elections to the European Parliament.

The statement from the French Prime Minister's office attacked both the assembly and the Commission for allowing the provisions of the Rome Treaty to be abused.

The essence of the French argument is that the extra sums cannot possibly be spent this year, and that they are being "artificially" inserted so as to raise the basis on which next year's spending will be determined.

The supplementary outlay would have cost France about \$90m this year and \$100m next year. It is up to the Commission to take action to obtain contributions from members refusing to pay.

France maintains that the Assembly's amendments go beyond the definition of "inevitable, exceptional or unforeseen needs" which are held to justify a budget supplement. Secondly, it argues that the extra expenditure, voted on 13 days before the end of the year, does not belong in the 1980 budget and should be carried over to next year.

Cutting the cost of consolation

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE English may take their pleasures sadly, as an 18th century French duke thought, but readers can at least console themselves this morning that some of the pleasures of life are relatively cheaper, or less expensive, than they were 10 or 20 years ago.

The real cost of a pint of beer—measured against the overall rate of price inflation—is now 7½ per cent less than in 1970. The actual cash price has risen by five times in the period, but this has still been less than the rise in prices generally.

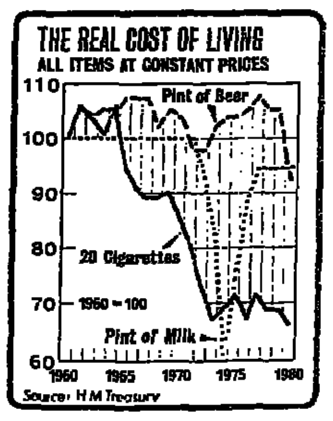
Cigarettes are even cheaper by the same yardstick—at over a third less than their 1970 real price for a packet of 20 filter tips.

The explanation is not that the tobacco and drink companies have become more philanthropic over the years, but that the duty, which is levied on a specific quantity and is not tied to the price, has lagged behind the rate of inflation.

Moreover, over the the last year, when both cigarettes and particularly beer, have become much cheaper, relatively, the recession and weak demand have contained prices.

Abstainers, teetotallers and other puritans will find no joy in the fact that a pint of milk has remained relatively more expensive than beer or cigarettes. However, a pint is still cheaper in real terms than it was during most of the 1960s.

There have been marked variations in price increases over the last 20 years and milk was relatively much cheaper than either cigarettes or beer during the mid-1970s when the price was subsidised by the Government.



The source of all this information is a Parliamentary written answer just published from Mr. John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He "regretted" that similar figures were not available for whisky and wine.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

Brezhnev denounces 'foreign interference' as Warsaw takes a more conciliatory line

Moscow talks on Poland

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

MR. LEONID BREZHNEV, the Soviet President, and Mr. Josef Czyrek, the Polish Foreign Minister, yesterday jointly denounced efforts of "imperialist and reactionary circles" to conduct "subversive activities against socialist Poland."

The statement followed the first top-level Soviet-Polish talks since NATO Foreign Ministers issued a warning earlier this month that the Soviet Union would face sweeping sanctions if Moscow intervened in Poland.

The Soviet news agency Tass, in a report on the talks, said that Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Czyrek "denounced" attempts to interfere in Poland's internal affairs and in Poland's relations with its socialist allies.

The Tass report gave few details of the talks themselves, but its tone suggested that Mr. Brezhnev reaffirmed the Soviet Union's readiness to leave responsibility for resolving the Polish labour crisis in the hands of the Polish Communist Party.

Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, also took part in the talks which were said to have been conducted in a "warm and cordial atmosphere."

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda yesterday made sweeping criticisms of Poland's new free trade unions. An article said that such unions served only "anti-socialist elements" and said there was no reason for strikes.

The communist party in a socialist country is held to be the vanguard of the working class and, according to Soviet ideology, the working class has no reason to strike against itself.

The Pravda article, which was presented as a theoretical essay, said the idea behind independent trade unions was "to tear the trade unions of the working class away from their political vanguard and set them into confrontation with the socialist state."

The article, suggesting Soviet concern that there will be no central trade union organisation in Poland when the present body dissolves itself at the end of this month, said arguments in favour of free trade unions were "doubtful to say the least."

Mr. Leonid Brezhnev . . . leaving responsibility with Polish Communist Party

Religion returns to Polish Christmas

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

TRADITIONAL Christmas carols, religious poems and stories dominated Poland's Communist-controlled radio and TV over the holiday as the authorities sought to mollify a population tired of shortages and impatient for political and economic improvement. Midnight mass from Cracow Cathedral was broadcast on the radio.

In previous years, the media concentrated on the secular aspects of Christmas and the religious content was barely mentioned. This year's change in policy reflects the authorities' view that the Catholic Church is the main stabilising factor in the country.

On Christmas Eve, the high point of the celebration, both radio and TV broadcast a Christmas message recorded in the Vatican by the Polish-born Pope John Paul II. His short speech, the first that the Pope has addressed directly to the population since the crisis began in the summer, was a powerful plea for moderation towards both the authorities and the population. The Pope expressed the hope that "both internal and external peace" would prevail in the coming year.

The Pope twice sent his greetings to "everyone in Poland without exception," a clear sign that the people should try to work with the authorities for improvements. Pope John Paul also used the term "renewal," the Communist Party description of the reform process, in a conciliatory gesture to the Party leadership.

The Polish Church, headed by Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, does not intend to forfeit its independence in the name of national unity however. Cardinal Wyszynski criticised some Party members for delaying reforms in a Christmas Day sermon.

The row over critical remarks about the "irresponsibility" of some of Poland's dissidents made by Father Alojzy Orszulik, the Church Press spokesman, earlier this month continues.

The Church is said to be conducting private talks over the release of a small group of dissidents, members of the Confederation of Independent Poland.

Why Russia is loath to use force in Poland

BY DAVID SATTER AND ANTHONY ROBINSON IN MOSCOW

A YEAR after Soviet troops moved into Afghanistan, the Soviet Press is waging a minor war of nerves against Poland. But this time Soviet military intervention "can be completely excluded," said Mr. Roy Medvedev, the dissident Soviet historian, in an informal interview.

A Soviet invasion could inspire fierce Polish resistance and the imposition of a rule of terror. It would require occupation forces probably 10 times the number now in Afghanistan, which Western observers estimate at 85,000. The Soviet Union would find itself in a worse predicament than the Americans in Vietnam.

The starting point for Mr. Medvedev's conclusion that intervention is out of the question is that the Polish crisis "cannot be solved by military means." Poland is already a member of Comecon and the Warsaw Pact. What is more, the Polish Government and party leaders are pro-Soviet. Thus, the Soviet authorities do not face the problem of replacing the Government or party with men closer to Moscow, as was the case in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Neither does the Soviet Union face a military struggle against the party and government, as in Afghanistan and in Hungary in 1956. This eliminates any purely military argument for intervention.

What Poland does face is an economic and social crisis which military intervention would only worsen. Intervention would also drastically change the international environment and block any chance of success for Russia's long-term policy of attempting to exploit divisions between the United States and Europe.

Military intervention would also "impose a senseless economic burden on the Soviet people," Mr. Medvedev said. One

Mr. Roy Medvedev dissident Soviet historian and liberal Marxist, explains why he believes the Kremlin's troops will not interevene in Poland

consequence of the Polish crisis is that Moscow is being forced to pay greater attention to Russian supplies of food and consumer goods, to head off the risk of similar dissatisfaction in the Soviet provinces, where food is much scarcer than in the main cities. Better co-ordination in producing and marketing food and other consumer products can be expected to be a main feature of the forthcoming five-year plan. Satisfying the consumer has previously held a low priority because of the leadership's confidence in the Soviet people's patience. "It has seen in Poland that there are limits to people's patience."

Apart from the irrelevance of a military response to Poland's problems, Mr. Medvedev, a liberal Marxist who has close links with Italian Euro-Communists, believes such intervention can also be excluded for ideological reasons. Soviet military might would not be directed against a minority of the intelligentsia but against the whole Polish working class, which could well put up bitter resistance.

The historical evidence suggests this is highly probable. Poland was part of the Russian empire for around 300 years and an invasion would lead in effect to the fifth partition of Poland (the fourth followed the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939).

Poland was always the most restless part of the Russian empire. The Bolsheviks were happy to give it up after the revolution. "No one in the present Soviet leadership would want to see a rebellious Poland incorporated de facto into the Soviet Union itself," Mr. Medvedev said. But he believes the Soviet leadership has still not decided what to do, principally because the Polish upheaval is not directly comparable to crises in the Soviet empire in the past. It is a crisis not only for Poland and the Soviet Union, but also for the West, and must be solved by both East and West — even though Poland may take a decade to get back on its feet.

"Unlike 1956, when the West saw Hungary as an opportunity to 'roll back' the Soviet Union, or 1968, when the West showed its sympathy for the Dubcek reformist line, the West this time has a clear interest in the economic and general stability of Poland. . . . They want to get their money back."

The West is aware of this and has shown its willingness to help. But the problems could worsen. The decisions taken have run directly counter to the remedies needed. Poland needs economic discipline and incomes restraint. Instead, it has had strikes and higher wages. Rather than higher productivity and higher output, Poland has more money chasing fewer goods and, as production drops, the economy deteriorates.

The Soviet authorities have so far restricted Poland's impact on Soviet life by minimising information in the Soviet media and jamming Russian-language broadcasts from the West. But the crisis is affecting the leadership, who are having to give higher priority to food and other supplies.

Romania has been allowed its independent foreign policy, and Hungary its economic reforms. Poland has always had greater pluralism because of the strength of the Church, the independent peasants and cultural traditions.

Poland has now increased the area of freedom. But this does not imply that Moscow would allow the Polish example to be followed by, for example, Czechoslovakia or East Germany. They will be expected to remain as orthodox and pro-Soviet as they are now. So will Russia's own citizens.

'10,000 held' after Indian farmers' protest

NEW DELHI — Up to 10,000 people, including some of India's top Opposition leaders, were arrested yesterday in Nagpur, in the western State of Maharashtra, at the end of a 225 mile farmers' protest march, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Mr. George Fernandes, the former Industries Minister, and the former chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana and Maharashtra states were among those held after club-swinging police broke up a rally of 15,000 farmers. Agencies.

Lebanon clashes evoke fears of civil war

SYRIAN forces have again clashed with Christian militiament in the town of Zahle, in eastern Lebanon. Combined with further violence in other parts of the country, the fighting has evoked fears of a recurrence of civil war, Ihsan Hijazi reports from Beirut.

Hussein stands firm on territorial gains

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has committed his country to an indefinite military occupation of parts of Iran, saying the Iraqi frontline will be the new border until the war is over.

In a speech to the Cabinet published by the official Press yesterday the President gave a new status to the territory held by Iraqi troops in Iran's vital oil province of Khuzestan and other areas further north.

President Hussein told his Ministers the positions now held by Iraqi troops were Iraq's military borders with Iran, and declared: "This is the correct military map of Iraq while it is defending its territory, for as long as there is a state of war between Iraq and Iran."

He ruled out any withdrawal until Iran accepts Iraq's war demands, which include full Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-Arab waterway and certain border areas.

President Hussein's announcement marks a new phase in the three-month-old war, according to diplomats and points to a long occupation.

President Hussein rebuked peacemakers who have asked Iraq to withdraw to the former border, keeping only the disputed areas.

President Hussein also made long references to a little-known area of operations in the far north, an acutely sensitive area populated on both sides of the border by Kurds who have fought for autonomy from Baghdad and Teheran.

The President said that Iraqi forces had been ordered a week ago to push across the frontier into Iran wherever they found they would be in a stronger military position by doing so. Reuter

Iraq to send more oil through Turkey

BY METIN MUNIR IN ANKARA

IRAQ is to raise the annual throughput capacity of its pipeline running to the eastern Mediterranean coast to 45m-50m tonnes per annum from 35m tonnes per annum, according to an agreement signed yesterday.

The agreement was reached during the five-day meeting of the Turkey-Iraq Joint Economic Commission, which convenes periodically. It was signed by Mr. Turgut Ozal, Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr. Tahir Tawfik, the Iraqi Minister of Industry and Mines. The Press release announcing the agreement was as full of surprises as it was deficient in detail.

It said that Turkey and Iraq had further agreed to build a refinery and a petrochemical complex at Yumurtalik, near the pipeline's terminal at the Bay of Iskenderun, close to Syria. Products would be destined for export markets.

Under another clause, Turkey and Iraq decided to build a natural gas pipeline to carry Iraqi natural gas to Turkey. It was not divulged whether the pipeline was intended for Turkey's needs or export or both.

The natural gas pipeline, refinery and the petrochemical complex are ideas which have existed since the early 1970s. The plans to expand the throughput of the pipeline and supplement it with a refinery and petrochemical complex come at a time when the Iran-Iraq war demonstrated its vulnerability.

The pipe line has functioned erratically since the beginning of hostilities and was knocked out of action yet again earlier this week probably due to war damage.

Under another clause of the agreement Iraq agreed to the construction of a pipe line to carry crude from Yumurtalik over 440 kilometres to Kirikkale near the Turkish capital to a 5m tonnes per annum refinery which has to be built.

UK NEWS

Charities feel the pinch as many businesses cut their donations

BY LISA WOOD

THIS YEAR has been a depressing one for charities.

Hit by inflation, the increases in Value Added Tax earlier this year, and the recession, some are running large deficits while others are having to reduce the size of their operations.

This is at a time when spending cuts and mounting unemployment are increasing the demands made on them.

Voluntary donations from individuals are not increasing in line with inflation, despite the lower rates of Income Tax introduced in the Budget, according to Mr. Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

At the same time, he says, business appears to be cutting back on its donations. Earlier this week, he was told by one company that it was stopping all gifts to charities. The company had been donating £250,000 a year.

The only exception to the trend is that charitable giving by banks has increased significantly, while there has also been an increase in industrial sponsorship of charities. The financial advantage for a company in sponsoring a charity, rather than givin git a charitable donation, is that expenditure can be classified as an advertising expense.

Charitable giving does not increase markedly at Christmas although demands placed on certain charities are heav[y] during this period. Crisis a[t] Christmas, a charity which con[-]centrates on the destitute ove[r] a five day Christmas period says the number of single home[-]less people needing its help wi[ll] increase substantially next year.

Dr. Barnardo's, the second in the charities' league table b[y] income, said it expects dona[-]tions for its Christmas appea[l] to be down on last year. Income from charitable func[-]tions has dropped—with people reluctant to pay higher entrance fees—while revenu[e] from charity gift shops has risen.

New drive to improve mineral water sales

Financial Times Reporter

EFFORTS to wean Britons off tap water and on to something a little more adventurous are to be stepped up in 1981.

Apart from such incidentals as oil and coal, Britain can also claim to be self-sufficient in good, clear, natural mineral water. The only problem appears to be that too few people appreciate the benefits of what one supplier was inspired to describe as "subterranean nectar." And those who do invariably purchase foreign products.

According to Stirling Mineral Water, which sells water drawn from 60m under the Ochil Hills in Perthshire, the annual consumption of mineral water in the UK is about one third of a litre per head (somewhat lower than for the complementary spirit with which it is normally associated).

The performance is, if Scotch drinkers will excuse the thought, a weak one. In West Germany, mineral water consumption is up to 33 litres a head ,in France the figure is 52 litres and in some Middle Eastern countries, the average is over 200 litres.

That will all change if companies like Stirling get their way. The company, which has financial backing from Swiss and Middle Eastern interests, has spent £4.5m to bring the delights of Perthshire mineral water to a wider market. The product once represented the only water supply to the village of Blackford but was replaced in 1965 when the mains water supply arrived.

Some of the villagers now work in Stirling's factory, bottling two products. Highland Spring natural water, sold in PVC containers, and carbonated water, sold in glass bottles. They have already been launched in the UK and are soon expected to go on sale further afield. Together with tis main rivals, Perrier and Evian of France, Stirling intends to build the UK market from its present £10m to £12m a year to about £25m by 1983.

Stirling is not alone, however, in attempting to convert the British to the delights of pure sprin gwater. High Peak borough council in Derbyshire is now negotiating for the commercial bottling and marketing of the once-famous local mineral water.

Proposals

At one time, Buxton was a leading spa tow nwith visitors from all over Europe. The clear spring water is said to have a fine taste which ideally blends with whisky and other drinks. Another Derbyshire town, Ashborne, is already marketing its own pure water.

Shops hope early sales will keep people buying

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MANY big London stores and nationwide retailers start their annual sales today in an effort to maintain the momentum of the late pre-Christmas sales surge.

However, retailers are worried that the heavy price-cutting in recent months by shops anxious to maintain their trade might mean that consumers will no longer be lured by the bargains on offer.

As Mr. Richard Weir, director of the Retail Consortium, says: "It's been one long January sale all through 1980."

Mr. Weir also suggests that many retailers could find it difficult to offer real bargains since profit margins and price have already been sharply pared to attract trade in recent months.

However, some retailers point out that prices—especially of electrical goods—are bound to rise when present stocks are exhausted. They argue that those shoppers who have held back their spending in the past few months may now decide to buy at the current "rock-bottom" prices.

Mr. Roy Burgess, managing director of British Home Stores, also suggests that "everybody still likes a sale atmosphere."

The importance of a good clearance sale for most retailers is that, in spite of a late sales rush earlier this week, the volume of retail spending this Christmas is likely to be only the same, or marginally below, last year's levels, which were themselves far from good.

Food retailers were especially busy this week as many supermarket chains will not be open today, and shoppers stocked up for a four-day break. But elsewhere retailers reported that shoppers were buying practical gifts this year, such as knitwear.

Retailers are worried that, as the recession continues in early 1981, the level of consumer spending will fall sharply.

Such fears are illustrated by various surveys, including the FT survey of consumer confidence, which show that consumers are generally very pessimistic at present.

Among the London department store groups starting their sales today are the Army and Navy stores, Swan and Edgar, and Debenhams. Debenhams had a sale only two months ago —which it says led to a 60 per cent increase in trade—but it does not think that this will harm prospects for today's sale.

The two largest sales are traditionally at Harrods and Selfridges. Selfridges' sale starts next Tuesday, while Harrods' sale starts on January 10.

Coal production rises while demand slumps

BY MARTIN DICKSON, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

COAL production is continuing to rise, despite a slump in demand which is putting pressure on the National Coal Board (NCB) to cut back production.

Deep-mined coal, output for the week ending December 13 was 2,542,000 tonnes, the highest for five years, according to the latest NCB figures. Production stands 1.5m tonnes higher than 1979—itself a good year—and overall productivity is 0.8 per cent up. Opencast mines are also doing well, with production up 2m tonnes over last year.

Increasing production and productivity are the result of the NCB's sustained six-year capital investment programme, which, ironically, has coincided with a major slump in demand.

UK demand is expected to be 8m tonnes lower this financial year than last, which has been offset to some extent by greater exports.

The NCB has benefited in the Continental market from a drop in supplies from Poland. But to compete it is being sold at little or no profit.

Meanwhile, UK coal stocks are mounting. The NCB's stocks stand at 17.25m tonnes, compared to 9.75m a year ago.

The Board is facing Government pressure to improve its financial performance and is having to consider production cutbacks.

These would be concentrated on its heaviest loss-making pits. The NCB is anxious not to hit morale at its high-productivity, long-life pits, which are meant to form the backbone of its expansion programme.

New Talbot £100 cheaper

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

TALBOT UK is to launch what will be its lowest-priced model on January 1—a limited edition of its Linwood-built Sunbeam hatchback—which will sell for £3,299.

About 600 Sunbeam LS 1.0 Specials will be built. The car will undercut the next cheapest model in the range by about £100.

Talbot thus joins Ford and Vauxhall in producing, since October's Motor Show, cheaper versions of their smallest models at a time when the small hatchback market has become fiercely competitive.

Meanwhile, Peugeot, whose 250 UK dealers are due to be merged with Talbot's network of 650 under reorganisation plans announced by the two companies' French parent, has expanded its involvement in the UK light commercials market with the launch of its 9 cwt 305 van.

Europe's telecommunications authorities stand shaky, but united

Guy de Jonquieres looks at the commercial potential of satellite communications in Europe

AFTER months of hesitation and often heated wrangling, European countries have agreed to enter united into the era of satellite business communications.

From late 1983, their telecommunications authorities, including British Telecom, plan to operate a satellite service linking points throughout the Continent and the British Isles.

The service will provide high-speed transmissions between dish aerials which can be erected on or near a customer's premises. It will be able to handle any type of communication that can be sent in digital form, from telephone conversations through telex, facsimile and computer data to television transmissions.

At first, expense is likely to limit customers to big companies. No tariffs have yet been set, but the dish aerials are likely to cost between about £50,000 and £200,000 each, depending on the type of service required. As traffic increases, though, costs should fall, bringing the service within reach of many other users by the end of the decade.

The commercial potential of satellite communications is well on the way to being realised in the U.S., where several companies plan soon to offer specialised services aimed at the business community.

Satellite Business Systems (SBS), in which International Business Machines (IBM) is a major partner, launched its first satellite a few weeks ago. Xerox is working on a rival, though slightly less ambitious, project called X-Ten.

In Europe, however, it is not commercially feasible for most countries to operate such services exclusively for subscribers on their own territory. The authorities faced a choice, therefore, of co-operating on one service or being plunged into politically-charged nationalistic rivalry as different countries strove to impose their own services on others.

The telecommunications authorities agreed some time ago to launch jointly five communications satellites to be operated by their European "club," Eutelsat. But when the project suffered some early teething troubles, since resolved, France decided to go ahead on its own.

The French satellite, Telecom 1, is due to be launched in 1982 and to enter service the following year. The area covered by its transmissions, known as the "footprint," will stretch well beyond French borders and could theoretically serve subscribers in the UK as far north as the Wash.

France has lobbied other telecommunications authorities to adopt Telecom 1 as the vehicle for a European business communications service. It argued that it was ideally suited for transmission to small, rooftop aerials, unlike the five European satellites which were designed to serve only much bigger ground stations like Goonhilly.

The UK, among others, has been less than enthusiastic about the proposal. Not only would it have given France a head start in a key area of communications technology, but it would have cast a shadow over the European Space Agency (ESA), which had been asked to put the five satellites into orbit.

Most of the UK's £35m a year space budget is channelled through ESA, and British companies are among its major suppliers.

So, in a spirit of seasonal goodwill, a slightly contrived compromise was struck just before Christmas. The telecommunications authorities agreed to co-operate in running a single service, using both Telecom 1 and the five European satellites. The latter are to be redesigned so that they can transmit to small dish aerials.

British Telecom has been divided in the past about the merits of satellite communications. Mr. George Jefferson, its new chairman, a former senior executive at British Aerospace, is a satellite enthusiast and his views were strengthened by a recent visit to the U.S., where he inspected several advanced projects.

British Telecom's decision to go ahead is also clearly a pre-emptive move, taken in anticiparation of the relaxation of its monopoly due to take effect from next year.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, has already said that he would like to see private operators allowed to compete with British Telecom in offering so-called value added services, such as data communications and satellite business systems.

Sir Keith has asked Professor Michael Beesley of the London Business School to study the implications of such a move. His report, due out in six weeks' time, is widely expected to recommend that the Government open up the value added services market.

Parallel discussions are also being held in Whitehall on ways of increasing the opportunities for British industry in the field of space technology and satellite communications.

The aim is to expand industry's activities not only in the construction of satellites but in the supply of communications networks and equipment like ground stations, transmission lines and sophisticated terminals.

These moves are being followed with keen interest by a number of British companies, including British Aerospace, the General Electric Company (GEC), Plessey and Racal, all of which have expertise in different aspects of space and satellite technology. None, however, has much experience in supplying and operating complete communications systems.

That could change quite soon. For the UK Government is dangling a tantalising opportunity before private sector competitors in the satellite communications race, in the form of its proposal to sell off some of its shares in Cable and Wireless, the state-owned telecommunications company.

Cable and Wireless, which operates almost entirely outside the UK, has vast experience in installing and managing both public and private communications systems all over the world.

It is responsible for the entire telecommunications networks of many smaller countries and provides longer-distance links via landlines, undersea cables and satellites.

GEC, whose Marconi division was part of Cable and Wireless until 1947, is believed to be among the companies studying the proposed share sale with particular interest.

A stake in Cable and Wireless could greatly strengthen the group's position as a future supplier of information and communications systems, complementing its existing activities in office equipment, computers and the manufacture of telecommunications equipment.

But there could be a catch. Much of Cable and Wireless's business is done on a franchise basis, whereby it supplies governments with public telecommunications systems in exchange for a share of the revenues generated by the systems over a number of years.

Many of the company's customers are the governments of former British colonies which, ironically, regard state ownership of Cable and Wireless as a guarantee of its independence and impartiality.

Cable and Wireless also makes much of the fact that it does not manufacture its own equipment but selects the best available from a wide range of suppliers.

Cable and Wireless' management has warned the UK Government repeatedly that, if the shares were simply sold off to the highest bidder, there could be serious political repercussions on its business, leading possibly to the nationalisation of some of its operations overseas.

The Government seems to have been persuaded to retain a substantial stake in the company, probably more than 50 per cent, and discussions are now focusing on the method of disposing of the rest of the shares.

Cable and Wireless itself would like the shares to be sold to selected institutional investors which, ideally, would undertake not to re-sell them for a specified period.

There appears to be some sympathy in parts of Whitehall for this approach, which resembles the formula adopted for the disposal of the Government's holding in Ferranti earlier this year.

But because so much of the company's future business depends on the political goodwill of foreign government customers, it is exceptionally difficult to place a value on it.

This problem, combined with the Treasury's insistence on maximising the proceeds from the sale of state holdings in profitable industries, could make it harder for the Government to resist a sizeable offer from a single private sector bidder, should one materialise.

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Labour Right 'party in party' considered

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR Right-wingers may consider setting up what would amount to a separate party within the Labour Party after next month's special party conference.

The idea is that MPs—initially probably only a small group—would not themselves cut their ties with the Labour Party but instead would leave it to the party's national executive to expel them if it wished. The organisation would therefore represent a halfway-house for some Right-wingers who believe a split in the party almost inevitable but cannot bring themselves to leave it altogether.

It could also attract Labour MPs who fail to be reselected when the new procedure begins early next year.

The plan is just one option being discussed by Right-wingers as they prepare for the conference, which they believe will almost certainly push some of them, including the so-called "gang of three," nearer to leaving the party.

The Right is, however, far from united on tactics. The special conference may increase divisions on the Right as well as widen the gap between it and the rest of the party.

Mrs. Shirley Williams, Dr. David Owen and Mr. Bill Rodgers, standard-bearers of the social democratic Right, whose participation would be essential to any new grouping, will discuss their position in the next few weeks.

At the same time, the Campaign for Labour Victory, the Right-wing grass-roots organisation, is planning to hold a conference of its own after the January 24 conference, on the assumption that the Right will lose the argument over the method for electing the party leader.

Several options are being discussed informally by CLV members but no single solution could at this stage be relied on to attract the support of more than a handful of MPs. Any separatist moves could split the CLV.

When Mrs. Williams announced last month that she was not prepared to stand as a Labour candidate at present she indicated that the outcome of the special conference would be one factor she would consider when deciding whether she could remain a party member.

Dr. Owen is believed, too, to regard the conference as a watershed but, in spite of the increasing pessimism on the Right about the outcome, there is still a marked reluctance to take the plunge and split with the party altogether.

Some Right-wingers are anxious that before January 24 they should not talk themselves into a position in which they are forced to leave the party if the conference rejects, as seems almost certain, the idea of giving all Labour Party members a say in electing the leader.

Off-peak Channel fares cut

By William Hall, Shipping Correspondent

EUROPEAN Ferries has increased most of its peak season fares on the main cross-Channel route between Dover and Calais by around 16 per cent. At the same time, it has cut tariffs for some smaller cars and reduced off-peak fares.

P. & O. Ferries unveiled its 1981 tariffs for the highly competitive cross-Channel routes last week, but its larger rival, Sealink, has held off publishing its tariffs until it has seen European Ferries' plans.

The ferry operators had sought Government consent to their agreement on certain common minimum tariffs for the 1981 season. The Government refused, but it seems clear that between the companies the 1981 tariffs are going to look very similar.

Thus, though there are individual differences, the European Ferries' peak single rate for a Cortina and family of four on the Dover-Calais route is £67, while the P. & O. rate is £67.50.

Both companies have now adopted five categories of prices for different times of the year, and have concentrated their car tariffs on three main lengths—up to 4m, up to 4.5m, and over. P. & O. also has a category for over 5.50m.

Trade Secretary to see book producers

BY ALAN PIKE

MR. JOHN NOTT, Trade Secretary, will meet printing industry representatives next month to discuss problems facing book-producers.

Employers and union leaders asked for the meeting earlier this month, telling Mr. Nott that the recession was having a "paralysing impact" on book-publishing and that the industry was under heavy attack from overseas competition.

Redundancies in book production—about 1,600 jobs were lost in recent months and many more employees are on short-time—are running at four times the rate of the rest of the printing industry.

Much of the problem results from the increasing amount of work British publishers are placing with overseas printers.

The value of imports to Britain rose from £84m in the first 10 months of 1979 to £104m in the corresponding period this year.

Representatives of the British Printing Industries Federation and union leaders told Mr. Nott they accepted that the Government was not to blame for all problems facing book-publishing and that both sides of the industry were committed to improving efficiency.

But there was, they said, also an urgent need for tangible recognition that "the industry cannot sufficiently combat overseas competition without an improvement in the economic circumstances affecting trade."

The areas Government policies were hitting book-publishing, the industry will tell Mr. Nott, include high interest rates and the strong pound;

CB decision in 1981

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

CITIZEN'S Band radio could be introduced in the UK by the middle of 1981, says the National Council for the Legalisation of Citizen's Band Radio.

It believes the Government will announce its decision in February to curb the growing number of illegal users.

More than 250,000 people are now estimated to be operating on 27MHz although they face fines of up to £400. The sets are imported from the U.S. and Japan.

In August, the Government approved in principle a British service operated on 900MHz, but many organisations are unhappy with this choice of frequency.

Dockers talk of 15-25% pay rises

By Our Labour Staff

PAY NEGOTIATIONS for the country's 30,000 dockers have opened in several ports. In general the dockers' unions appear to be claiming about 15 or 16 per cent, in line with the present year-on-year rate of price inflation.

Hull is among the first port-employer bodies to reply. There a 9 per cent offer has been made, with the alternative of a supplement to average earnings. Hull shop-stewards are inclined to accept the supplement, which would mean a cash increase of £11.95 a week.

As in many other industrial sectors this year's negotiations will be strongly influenced by the economic recession which has left the ports in a weak state.

Cuts rejected

REDUNDANCY plans by the management of the American-owned Burroughs Machines Company have been rejected by workers at their plant in Cumbernauld, Scotland.

The company recently announced that 355 workers at the factory in the Strathclyde new town would be paid off in February and that a further 5 to 10 per cent of the workforce at Cumbernauld were likely to be made redundant.

Civil service unions discuss MSC plan

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR STAFF

CIVIL SERVICE unions are seeking a meeting with members of the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) following discussions with senior MSC officials on the agency's newly-published corporate plan, which includes acceptance of a staff cut of 1,710 posts.

Leaders of unions representing staff at the MSC and other parts of the Department of Employment group requested a meeting with the MSC Commissioners when they met this week, Mr. John Cassels, MSC director, and the chief executives of the commission's divisions.

The unions expressed strongly their view that the commission was being forced into making cuts in its services to the unemployed and those desperately in need of its services precisely when they were most needed.

Mr. Cassels and other senior officials stressed the force of the opening of the corporate plan, which states clearly the MSC's belief that the prseent level of its resources will make it extremely difficult for the MSC to fulfil its role.

Under the terms of the corporate plan, the commission's budgets are being cut over the next three years by about £80m.

The MSC is also beginning a study into the worth of registration by recently-unemployed workers at job centres. It is thought, however, that the studies will come down in favour of deferment of registration by, say, four weeks from becoming unemployed rather than advocate making registration entirely voluntary.

The unions expressed their concern during the meeting with Mr. Cassels at the MSC's decision to abandon the computer-aided job matching project for London, CAPITAL.

Though some of the unions were worried about the system's effects on their members' jobs, it was felt that such a sophisticated matching of qualifications and opportunities could not but help unemployment.

Details about the proposed on-line job bank to take the place of CAPITAL have still to be worked out, but it seems likely that the system will only take the form of a message exchange.

The unions also voiced concern about the forthcoming Rayner study into benefit deliveries. The report is now believed to be with Ministers, and is understood to contain about 81 separate recommendations. Confidential Whitehall estimates put the job savings proposed by the report for the DE benefit service at 770.

Move to secure foreign investment in Scotland

BY RAY PERMAN, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering creating a new jobs-seeking agency for Scotland to end the friction between the two bodies now responsible for overseas promotion and securing foreign investment.

Details of the proposal will be given in a white paper early in the New Year when the Scottish Office gives its response to the Commons committee on Scottish Affairs, which was highly critical of the effectiveness of the overseas investment effort.

The Government is believed to have accepted some of the committee's criticisms, particularly on the need for closer working between the Scottish Development Agency, which is responsible for persuading companies to look at locations in Scotland for new projects, and the Civil Service departments which negotiate grants and other financial assistance.

The select committee was critical of the comparatively low number of job-creating projects which result from the very much higher number of visits to Scotland by companies and individuals.

Since it began its overseas push 18 months ago, the agency has doubled the number of visits made to Scotland by potential investors. But of 62 trips in the past year, only nine resulted in investment announcements.

There has been some feeling that investment opportunities have been missed because the agencies and some civil servants have not worked as closely together as they could have.

To remedy this the Government is considering setting up an umbrella organisation consisting of personnel from both organisations. It would probably be headed by a civil servant, but would be based in the agency's offices.

The new body would attract companies to Scotland—through publicity and personal contact abroad—and convert those prospects to firm investment intentions, by wooing foreign firms with grants and other incentives.

The Scottish Economic Planning Department is responsible for administering selective financial assistance to industry, but it is understood that the Government has conceded it cannot bring a third body, the Department of Industry's regional office in Glasgow, under the umbrella.

Breakfast TV decision expected tomorrow

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

A little under half the population might watch breakfast-time television if it were introduced by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), an MRC survey carried out on behalf of Pye, the radio and television manufacturer, suggests.

A decision on breakfast television is expected tomorrow when the IBA announces the new independent television franchises.

After eliminating the "don't knows," 44 per cent of the 1,000 people questioned by MRC in the North, South and Midlands said they would watch breakfast television.

The survey results, published this morning, suggest the biggest part of the audience would be children of under 12. More men than women said they would be likely to watch.

Of those who said they were potential viewers, 58 per cent said they would prefer news to other sorts of programmes. Children's programmes were chosen by 48 per cent, with documentaries and general entertainment each attracting 32 per cent.

Of the 56 per cent who said they would not watch breakfast television even if it were to be introduced, 53 per cent felt they "would have no time," 29 per cent claimed to be "too busy getting ready for work," 18 per cent would be "busy getting children ready for school," and 8 per cent complained that there was already enough television in the evening.

Peak time for viewing, according to the sample questioned, would be between 7.31 and 8.30.

Hard-hit assayers offered aid

By James McDonald

THE GOLDSMITHS Company, which controls the London Assay Office, is offering cash aid to the Birmingham Assay Office, hard hit this year by the recession.

All Assay Offices—which hallmark gold and silver articles—have been affected, but Birmingham particularly. This year it has had a cut of over 50 per cent in the number of gold and silver articles sent for hallmarking.

Mr. Hilary Eccles-Williams, chairman of the Guardians of the Birmingham Assay Office, said: "For example, the cost of a large silver presentation salver by early last year had risen to between £1,000 and £1,500, compared with about £350 in 1979."

The drop in trade caused the Birmingham Assay Office to reduce its staff from 220 to 150 earlier this year.

Safeguard for heating industry

By Robin Pauley

THE central heating industry is to set up its own trade body, the Heating Industries Federation.

The move has been sponsored by Mr. Peter Hooper, managing director of the UK subsidiary of the Danish Grundfos pump manufacturing group. It reflects the problems the recession has brought the industry.

Although the industry has experienced a tough year, the indicators for the start of 1981 were much worse, Mr. Hooper said. It promised to be one of the bleakest periods the industry had seen for years.

The industry could not afford to limp along at the present low level, and be affected by every downturn in trade and cut-back in Government expenditure.

He said the industry needed to try to create its own market and form a federation which would devote its time to developing the wet central heating market.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Quiet time for equities

IN THE two and a-half days' trading this week, very little happened to drag equity dealers' attention from the seasonal festivities. Apart from the few stocks which were displaying the results of speculative interest, equity prices hardly moved, and the 30-Share index rose just 0.4 points on the truncated trading period.

More interest was provoked by the gilt-edged market, where the Treasury produced three small tranches of stock which may be traded ex-dividend from Monday.

The result should be that, although the Government Broker may see a good deal of demand next week, the gilt-edged market should be restrained from racing away.

On the year as a whole, investors in Government securities would have gained 4.7 per cent. The Financial Times 30 Share index rose 11.8 per cent. while the oil-heavy All-share rose by 26 per cent.

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price Wednesday	Change on Week	1980 High	1980 Low	
FT Ind. Ord. Index	466.9	+ 0.4	515.9	406.9	*Subdued interest*
FT Govt. Secs. Index	69.06	+ 0.48	72.54	63.85	Reduced pressure on interest rates
FT Gold Mines Index	441.3	+13.3	558.9	265.5	Bullion price better
Assoc. Leisure	128	+12½	146	81	Spec. demand/thin market
Cornell Dresses	58	−17	142	10¼	Offer document disappoints
Dunlop	69	+ 5	85	51	Revived bid hopes
Evered	23	+ 7	24	13	Bid from Francis Inds.
F. C. Finance	107	−10	117	52	Co-op Bank bid situation
GKN	143	+10	279	133	£20m joint acq. of Redland Purle
HK & Shanghai Banking	173	+16	179	101	Far Eastern advices
HK Land	188	+20	230	82	Far Eastern advices
ICL	63xd	− 7	196	63	Still on poor results
ICI	318	−12	402	314	Reduced share in Ninian Field
Initial Services	203xd	+ 9½	206	107	Comment on int. results
KCA International	185	+19	193	28	Renewed demand
LASMO	750	+15	885	337	Increased stake in Ninian Field
M. & G. Holdings	244	+46	244	128	Increased dividend and profits
Melody Mills	24	− 6	52	24	Interim loss
Sainsbury (J.)	347	+12	347	140	Persistent investment support
Zimbabwe Annuities	£330	+12	£332	£268	Good demand

Redland's disposal

After a troublesome nine years Redland this week parted company with its Redland Purle waste transport and disposal subsidiary.

The £20m sale, to a joint company being formed by Guest Keen and Nettlefold, and Brambles Industries of Australia, comes at a time when the waste operation was just beginning to show some of the promise which had always been hoped for but which had somehow failed to materialise.

Mr. Colin Corness, chairman and chief executive of Redland, said it had been "a long hard slog" to improve the efficiency and profitability of an industrial and domestic waste disposal operation, which it had purchased at the start of 1972 for £16.8m, a price which was generally considered to be too high.

Ever since the company had presented Redland with headaches, that ranged from the environmental aspects of getting rid of huge quantities of toxic rubbish to the problem of non-existent profits.

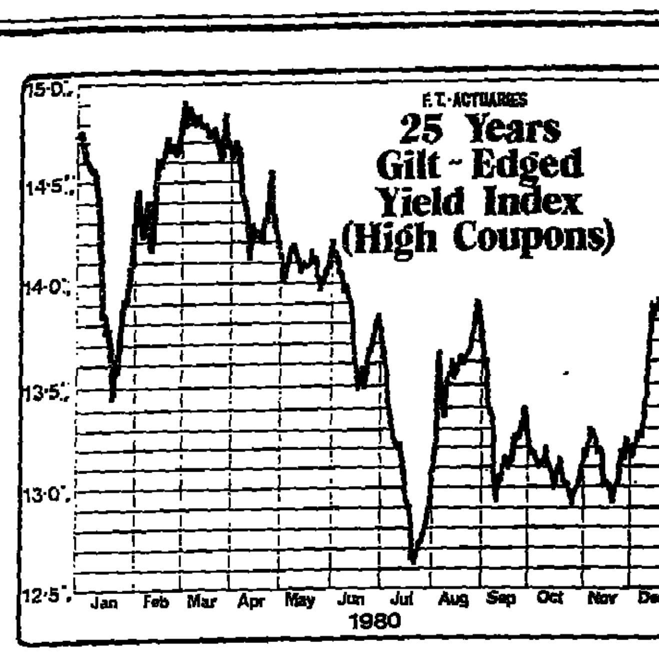
Redland says, however, that it expects pre-tax profits this year to reach somewhere between £3m-£3.5m and claims that although it was not looking for a purchaser it simply received, after several approaches, an offer it could not refuse.

The cash to be paid over by the new joint owners by January 14 will go towards Redland's expansion by acquisition programme most likely in the UK and possibly into the purchase of some more small electronic operations.

As for GKN and its partner Brambles, the biggest waste disposal operator in Australia, they are to call their new joint company Clearaway. The two companies believe the industrial and domestic waste business has a lot more potential than Redland ever acknowledged or managed to achieve. Redland seems happy to hand over the challenge.

LONDON

ONLOOKER



Sober S & N

Like their cousins in the whisky trade Britain's beer brewers are finding that the country has been suprisingly sober this year. This week Scottish and Newcastle, not one of the most profitable of the brewing companies, revealed that its first half had been distinctly unexciting.

Pre-tax profits were down 15 per cent from £22.6m to £19.3m and the group's 90 per cent rise in finance costs from £4.1m to £7.8m was one major reason for the fall. This sharp jump in interest charges was doubtless given a boost by the £23m purchase last July of seven hotels and restaurants from Thorn EMI.

In addition to soaring interest payments Scottish and Newcastle has also been hit by the recession. As Britons have found themselves with less money in their pockets and higher beer prices, volume has dropped. S and N may not, however, have suffered as much as the 3 to 4 per cent volume decline of the brewing industry as a whole during the first six months.

In terms of market share S & N seems to be gaining: the launch of Kestrel was one facet of the group's lager programme. But higher market share is often at the expense of margins, particularly difficult in the take-home trade.

S & N does have a great deal of potential for expansion, having acquired Harp's Manchester brewery, but there are no immediate signs of a reversal in demand to take up the slack. In addition, S & N does not have as extensive a pub network as some of its competitors enjoy, making it more susceptible to changing trends.

In the full year the group's pre-tax profits could continue downward, ending up at around £34m, just below the plateau which the company occupied from 1977 to 1979. Last year will then appear as the exception with pre-tax profits of £39.1m.

The interim dividend has been maintained and the prospective yield at 57½p comes to around 11 per cent, the sort of return which is necessary to support the shares.

Initial

With a solid growth record behind it Initial managed once again to please the market with a 16 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30, 1980. This was achieved despite what the chairman said "were difficult conditions."

The shares, which have made a rapid ascent this year from a lowpoint of 107p, notched up a 5p rise after the results to close at 201p, where they yield just under 6 per cent.

Higher *earnings* at the interim reflected the move into the black of its Australian subsidiary, growth in the small office cleaning division and a reasonable performance by the linen supply operation. Linen supply, which last year produced 76 per cent of group turnover, is facing growing pressure as it loses more old contracts than it is gaining new ones, due to the adverse impact of the recession on its customers, most of which are manufacturing companies.

Further decline in demand for its services is anticipated in the second half. Yet the chairman seems confident that, notwithstanding this slowing of demand, group profits for the full year should equal last year's £15.8m.

UK ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY—Indices of industrial production, manufacturing output (1975=100); engineering orders (1975=100); retail sales volume (1976=100), retail sales value (1976=100); registered unemployment (excluding school leavers) and unfilled vacancies (000s). All seasonally adjusted.

	Indl. prod.	Mfg. output	Eng. order	Retail vol.	Retail value	Unemployed	Vacs.
1979							
2nd qtr.	115.0	107.3	106	113.0	154.1	1,299	256
3rd qtr.	112.7	103.2	101	106.6	154.7	1,269	247
4th qtr.	112.6	104.2	101	109.1	163.1	1,286	230
1980							
1st qtr.	110.0	100.1	100	110.2	168.9	1,379	193
2nd qtr.	106.6	96.8	94	109.2	173.5	1,492	160
3rd qtr.	102.8	93.3	84	108.9	176.0	1,695	120
April	106.7	97.7	91	109.6	172.3	1,458	169
May	106.5	96.4	93	108.4	172.6	1,484	163
June	106.6	96.2	97	109.5	175.1	1,535	147
July	104.9	95.3	88	108.5	175.0	1,606	126
Aug.	102.4	93.0	91	109.6	176.8	1,696	120
Sept.	101.1	91.5	75	108.5	176.3	1,784	113
Oct.	101.0	90.6		109.7	179.0	1,892	100
Nov.				109.5		2,028	97
Dec.						2,133	102

OUTPUT—*By market sector; consumer goods, investment goods, intermediate goods (materials and fuels); engineering output, metal manufacture, textiles, leather and clothing (1975=100); housing starts (000s, monthly average).*

	Consumer goods	Invst. goods	Intmd. goods	Eng. output	Metal mnfg.	Textile etc.	Housg. starts*
1979							
2nd qtr.	109.3	102.5	133.3	102.4	111.2	103.3	21.3
3rd qtr.	105.6	96.4	132.5	95.0	105.1	100.3	21.0
4th qtr.	105.5	101.1	129.6	99.2	103.4	96.8	18.1
1980							
1st qtr.	104.7	101.1	123.4	98.9	56.4	92.2	12.3
2nd qtr.	98.4	95.9	123.1	93.1	93.7	85.6	16.2
3rd qtr.	97.4	94.8	116.6	91.2	78.8	83.3	12.4
April	99.0	97.0	122.0	94.0	89.0	88.0	15.0
May	97.0	96.0	124.0	93.0	99.0	84.0	16.7
June	99.0	95.0	123.0	93.0	94.0	85.0	16.2
July	100.0	96.0	120.0	93.0	82.0	85.0	14.1
Aug.	97.0	95.0	116.0	91.0	81.0	85.0	11.5
Sept.	95.0	94.0	114.0	90.0	74.0	80.0	12.8
Oct.	95.0	93.0	115.0	88.0	67.0	78.0	11.6

EXTERNAL TRADE—Indices of export and import volume (1975=100); visible balance; current balance (£m); oil balance (£m); terms of trade (1975=100); exchange reserves.

	Export volume	Import volume	Visible balance	Current balance	Oil balance	Terms trade	Resv. US$bn*
1979							
2nd qtr.	135.3	128.9	−525	−222	−229	106.2	21.69
3rd qtr.	129.8	128.1	−492	+ 60	−158	106.5	23.18
4th qtr.	129.3	128.9	−785	−589	−157	103.5	22.54
1980							
1st qtr.	132.3	126.6	−633	−191	−107	100.5	24.87
2nd qtr.	128.4	124.4	−262	− 64	− 8	102.6	28.15
3rd qtr.	126.7	115.8	+774	+1,076	+155	104.8	28.08
March	129.3	123.0	−126	+ 30	− 5	100.4	26.96
April	126.8	128.4	−303	−225	+ 26	101.6	28.01
May	129.8	120.8	− 1	+ 77	− 25	102.0	28.28
June	128.9	124.2	+ 15	+ 81	− 23	103.8	28.17
July	128.6	117.1	+303	+403	+ 98	104.3	28.27
Aug.	126.5	121.2	+ 48	+149	+ 6	105.4	28.29
Sept.	125.0	109.1	+423	+524	+ 51	104.7	27.64
Oct.	123.5	106.3	+459	+559	+152	104.7	28.03
Nov.	129.0	111.1	+455	+555	+ 59	105.1	28.19

FINANCIAL—*Money supply M1 and sterling M3, bank advances in sterling to the private sector (three months' growth at annual rate); domestic credit expansion (£m); building societies' net inflow; HP, new credit; all seasonally adjusted. Minimum lending rate (end period).*

	M1 %	M3 %	Bank advances %	DCE £m	BS inflow	HP lending	MLR %
1979							
2nd qtr.	5.2	15.6	28.5	+2,628	777	1,867	14
3rd qtr.	12.0	11.2	13.2	+3,642	933	1,879	14
4th qtr.	14.4	15.6	22.6	+2,977	839	1,954	14
1980							
1st qtr.	− 4.0	7.2	21.9	+1,725	634	1,974	17
2nd qtr.	− 1.5	10.7	23.3	+3,219	697	1,972	17
3rd. qtr.	14.4	39.1	45.2	+6,444	1,090	1,947	16
April	− 4.0	5.9	18.8	+ 701	266	675	17
May	4.0	12.6	21.8	+1,149	225	621	17
June	− 4.9	13.7	28.8	+1,369	206	676	17
July	11.7	36.5	50.8	+3,467	340	667	16
Aug.	11.2	40.8	46.4	+2,010	307	623	16
Sept.	20.5	39.8	38.7	+ 967	443	657	16
Oct.	6.2	24.0	19.0	+1,081	520	617	16
Nov.	8.0	19.6	7.7	+1,477	285		14

INFLATION—*Indices of earnings (Jan. 1976=100); basic materials and fuels, wholesale prices of manufactured products (1975=100); retail prices and food prices (1974=100); FT commodity index (July 1952=100); trade weighted value of sterling (Dec. 1971=100).*

	Earnings*	Basic matls.*	Whsale. mnfg.*	RPI*	Foods*	FT* comdty.	Strlg.
1979							
2nd qtr.	147.3	163.3	168.0	216.5	225.2	293.55	67.4
3rd qtr.	154.2	169.9	176.4	231.1	231.9	301.66	71.0
4th qtr.	161.7	183.9	181.8	237.6	237.2	295.13	68.8
1980							
1st qtr.	167.7	197.2	191.4	248.8	247.5	284.47	72.4
2nd qtr.	176.9	201.3	199.0	263.2	255.9	267.45	73.8
3rd qtr.		202.0	203.6	268.9	259.3	275.13	75.6
April	175.0	202.3	197.0	260.8	254.1	275.67	72.6
May	178.1	200.4	199.0	263.2	255.7	268.23	74.3
June	183.7	201.1	201.0	265.7	257.9	267.45	74.4
July	185.1	201.7	202.7	267.9	259.9	273.57	74.7
Aug.	186.5	201.8	203.5	268.5	259.0	275.38	76.2
Sept.	193.6	202.1	204.6	270.2	259.0	276.44	76.0
Oct.	189.3	201.2	205.4	271.9	259.3	274.65	79.2
Nov.		202.2	206.1	274.1	260.0	270.56	77.5

*Not seasonally adjusted.

UNIT TRUST AND INSURANCE OFFERS

PAGE

The taxman comes to M & G

BY RAY MAUGHAN

M and G, the second largest unit trust group in the country after Save and Prosper, is getting into the habit of making Christmas announcements. Its Yuletide message last year was anything but festive.

The foreign life assurance fund was facing an estimated £7m claim from the Inland Revenue for back taxes. Rather than incurring even bigger liabilities by selling part of its own portfolio to meet the Revenue's demands, M and G turned to one of its largest shareholders for support.

Transferring £2m from its own reserves, the unit trust group agreed that the merchant bank Kleinwort Benson would make available £5m if required.

In return, Kleinwort was granted an option to subscribe for new shares which would lift the bank's holding from 37½ to 51 per cent.

That was last Christmas. M and G's tiding this year, by contrast, are brimming with goodwill. The liability will not now exceed £2m, and may sink as low at £1.4m while the group will remain independent of the bank.

Kleinwort will raise its stake but it is buying only a further 5 per cent, from one of M and G's original shareholders, the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, whose stake will thus drop to 32½ per cent. Kleinwort will hold 42½ per cent.

Much has changed over the past 12 months. Mr. Andrew Caldecott, vice-chairman of the bank, took over the Chair from Mr. Edgar Palamonuntain, and Mr. David Hopkinson, formerly the chief investment manager, replaced Mr. Clive Fenn-Smith as managing director of M and G.

More importantly, the unit trust managers have had notable success in persuading holders of the controversial policies to take early surrender. As they surrendered, M and G's tax liability fell. As early as the publication of the 1978-79 accounts last May the tax provision had been cut to £3.7m.

Further early redemptions and an arrangement struck in August whereby the remaining foreign tax liabilities were laid off with Swiss Reinsurance, brought the outstanding deficit to its current level.

It all sounds, with hindsight, rather easy. Policyholders accepted early surrender because M and G offered a 5 per cent surrender premium and, as Mr. Hopkinson says, "they were in a depressing fund which was falling as others surrendered. It was a bad investment anyway, there was no point in papering it over."

At the outset, however, the position looked bleak indeed since the group had no clear idea of the full extent of its total liability.

The problem stemmed from a tiny part of M and G's business. For the previous 12 years, one of its life assurance companies, M and G Endowment and Pensions Assurance Company, had been writing foreign life business received from a number of independent life companies operating outside the UK.

It is worth noting that in its heyday, the exempt fund in which the premiums were invested was worth only £8m against total M and G funds under management of £1.2bn.

But the policies were basically single premium linked insurance bonds on which M and G had assumed that income and capital gains would have been exempt from UK taxation under the rules relating to foreign life funds.

For a long time this assumption was accepted by the Inland Revenue, but somewhere along the line policies started to be written without the essential life cover required to gain tax exempt status. Many policyholders, moreover, were not resident overseas.

The Revenue decided that the difference between the gross and net sum was M & G's responsibility and at Christmas 1979 the estimate of the total liability was £7m. The Department of Trade, it transpired, was actively thinking of closing M & G's assurance business down.

But, because Endowment and Pensions had been writing business for four overseas principals, the liability could only be an estimate. In fact, having cleared some £3m of the perceived liability through policy surrenders early in 1980, M & G uncovered further liabilities reaching as much as a further £3.5m.

Mr. Hopkinson can afford to be more cheerful these days but, looking ruminatively through the windows on the 22nd floor of Kleinwort's Fenchurch Street offices last week, he admits that "had we known of those additional liabilities from the outset, we would have all cut our throats.

"I guessed it would take about three years to clear this up," he says, "but we didn't really know what it would take. Yet as it turns out, it's only taken a year and a day."

Only around 50 of the original 350 policyholders have resisted M & G blandishments, but the group has transferred its Cayman Island business to its Channel Islands operation, which is now closed to new business.

Kleinwort Benson, meanwhile, seems happy enough to renounce its subscription rights. The option to lift its holding to 51 per cent of the shares at a 30p premium to net asset backing, would have cost some £4.5m but, as it is, the purchase of the charity's 5 per cent at 215p per share is costing just over £1m.

More importantly, the bank has accepted M and G's case that it should remain independent. Asked why the bank had not opted for control, Mr. Caldecott said last week that "M and G has flourished and will continue to flourish. We have increased our stake because we believe in its future. It will most certainly justify that belief if it remains independent."

With the help of the tax provisions the unit trust group has been able to write back; a buoyant year for unit trust business in general and the strong growth of its own investments (notably in overseas shares and gold, M & G's asset backing has grown from £5.6m in September 1979 to about £13m.

M & G has thus stepped right back from the edge of the precipice. Shareholders, policyholders and trustees will be hopping that it has nothing to say next Christmas. No news would be good news.

Is there life after Christmas?

NEW YORK

PAUL BETTS

NEW YORK had its first and coldest white Christmas in many years. A record 32m Christmas trees were sold throughout the country. In spite of all the *gloom on the economy,* the big *retailers reported* a last-minute surge in Christmas shopping that brightened *their holiday* and the late Bing Crosby crooned inevitably in all public places: and Wall Street too decided, for a short while at least, to believe in Santa Claus.

On Monday, on the third day before Christmas, the stock market staged a remarkable rally with the Dow Jones industrial average advancing by more than 21 points in what was the biggest single day rise *in the index in more than five months.*

On the second day before Christmas, the index was practically unchanged, while on Christmas Eve in a traditionally thin market the Dow managed nonetheless to gather up enough steam to chalk up nearly five more points.

The basic reason for the party atmosphere in the market *over Christmas* is that most dealers think Santa Claus has brought in their stockings the tentative promise that U.S. interest rates are now beginning to decline.

The view seemed to be confirmed on Monday, when the Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco cut its prime rate by a full percentage point from a record 21½ per cent to 20½ per cent.

Although most major U.S. banks with the exception of Chase Manhattan did not follow the move by the San Francisco credit institution, it was enough to generate a little euphoria in the market after the hammering stocks had received during the previous two weeks.

Peaking interest rates have helped the so-called interest-sensitive stocks, including the banks and the utilities which were largely forgotten during the stock market's long summer rally earlier this year, to bounce back to the expense, to some extent, of the oils, which have been the main target for profit-taking during the last few days.

Since the beginning of the market's expectations that interest rates were about to peak on December 15, bank stocks have made steady gains. Chase Manhattan, for example, has advanced by more than $4, while J. P. Morgan has gained $6½. Even Citicorp, the parent of C itibank, the largest New York bank, managed to put about $3 although the bank h[as] indicated that it expects fourth quarter net operati[ng] earnings to drop significan[tly] below the $154m it reported [in] the fourth quarter of last ye[ar].

The bank largely blamed hi[gh] *interest rates for its expec[ted] disappointing results* wh[ich] *would not even be offset by* [the] *sale of investments and* r[eal] *estate and a special transact[ion] involving its leasing activit[ies] which would increase its aft[er-]tax results in the last quar[ter] by about $20m.*

For their part, intere[st-]sensitive utility stocks a[lso] made some gains, albeit mo[destly]. Con Edison, for example, h[as] advanced by just over $3 si[nce] December 15, while Gene[ral] Public Utilities has gained [...] cents and Gulf States utiliti[es] about $1.

But not all the market is co[n]vinced that Santa Claus h[as] brought this Christmas t[he] promise of lower interest ra[tes] in the immediate future. [...] *Tuesday, the Federal Reser[ve] was doing some strange thin[gs] in the market suggesting it w[as] attemptin gto prevent sho[rt] rates sliding too rapidly a[nd] that it apparently feels that* [a] *decline in the prime at th[is] stage may be prematur[e].* Indeed, the Central Bank inte[r]vened in the market at a tim[e] when FED funds, or the sho[rt] term interbank funds marke[t] *were trading at around 18½ p[er] cent by draining reserves a[nd] thus pushing rates up.*

Apart from the "peakin[g] *fever" which has gripped th[e]* market in recent sessions, th[e] best Christmas performer h[as] oddly been Franklin Mint, th[e] country's largest private mint.

The company, which aft[er] *more than ten years of rap[id] growth suffered a dramat[ic] reversal in its fortunes thre[e] years ago, announced on Chris[t]mas Eve it had accepted* [a] *$206m takeover bid by Warne[r] Communications, the film an[d] entertainment concern.* Afte[r] *the announcement, the stoc[k] lept more than $6 to close o[n] Wednesday at $25¼.*

MONDAY	958.79	+21.5
TUESDAY	958.28	− 8.5
WEDNESDAY	963.85	+ 4.7

This time he passed the port

THE FIVE friends had enjoyed *their dinner and in mellow contentment they waited for the coffee to be served.* Only on *the brows of the Bookmaker was there a slight frown and* this was merely because he was tackling a decision on whether to take port or brandy, or perhaps both.

The wise Old Investor had already made up his mind, of course, while the *Cautious Man was wondering which of the two beverages would do least harm to his system.* The Eager Man *was more* interested in the conversation to come and the Young Investor *was* reminding himself that this time he must not forget to pass along the port decanter when it came his way.

By not doing so at their last *meeting he had incurred a glance of such severity from* the Old Investor that he felt it could have shut a door at five paces. That was in June 1979 when gold shares were standing at barely half their present levels. The Old Investor had been living comfortably in sunny climes since then on his gold shareholdings.

MINING

KENNETH MARSTON

The Young Investor, on the other hand, had bought "respectable" UK industrial equities and was trying to forget the fact that the FT industrial index was now around 460 compared with just over 500 at the time.

"The financial writers will have headaches in finding shares for the coming year," observed the Eager Man, adding, "the one who writes on mining in the FT can't be too happy about the way gold and base metal prices are going." "How did his 1980 recommendations turn out?" asked the Bookmaker.

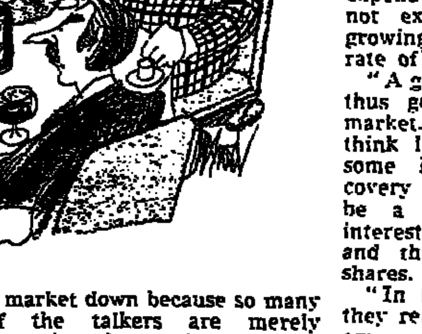
In a moment spectacles appeared on the nose of the Eager Man and he was reading from a slip of paper. "He suggested taking profits on a portion of gold shareholdings and running the rest." The Cautious Man nodded approvingly while the Young Investor tut-tutted. "And," said the Eager Man, "*he was a seller of Consolidated Murchison which were then 340p and are now about 250p.*"

"Yes, yes," said the *Old* Investor as he poured his port and glanced meaningfully at the Young Investor, "but tell them what he said to buy." "He liked Amax," replied the Eager Man, but while the U.S. group boosted nine-month earnings to a record level the share price is now a little lower than it was a year ago.

"His other choices did better. Canada's Noranda shares are now around C$30 compared with C$23 a year ago, South Africa's Anglo American Coal Corporation have risen to just over £14 from £10½ while Australia's Western Mining touched 332p during the year and are now about 290p compared with his recommendation price of 180p.

"He also favoured Rio Tinto-Zinc at 340p and the shares later rose to the equivalent of 486p — after allowing for the Convertible loan stock offer — and are now about 410p. Finally, he said that Selection Trust were worth picking up at 590p and, as we all know, British Petroleum subsequently took the company over at £12¾ per share."

"He couldn't have known that that would happen," said the Young Investor crossly; he had never bought Selection Trust



shares because the investment analysts had seemed always to be saying that they were overpriced.

"Still, BP seems to have supported his views," said the Bookmaker with a chuckle and immediately regretted it when the sudden movement dislodged an inch and a half of cigar ash on to his waistcoat.

"I wonder what he would say about the various shares now," commented the Eager Man. "Well," said the Cautious Man, "the article did make the point that a potential investor should take a long view and acquire good calibre mining shares with an eye to the eventual end of the economic recession, so I suppose we should *stay* with them."

"*Just a minute,*" *said the Bookmaker,* "*how could any*one hold shares in a base metal producing company at a time when the world economic recession is dampening demand for metal and when high interest rates have resulted in many holders of both the base and precious metals selling their stocks?"

Somebody mumbled that a losing streak never seemed to deter some of the Bookmaker's clients. "Come to that," added the Bookmaker, pretending not to hear the comment on his clients, "what's the point of holding any investments at the moment?" Ruefully, he thought of one or two shareholdings that he should have sold long since.

"The most difficult thing about investment," said the Old Investor, "is knowing when to sell. Then there is the problem of knowing what to do next with the money and the best course seems often to stay with good-class holdings and wait for the tide to turn. After all, many investments will have handsomely repaid their original cost in dividends alone.

"Even so," he continued, "it is better to sell a little too early than too late." The Young Investor thought for a while and then asked: "How do we know when to buy?"

"Quite often," said the Old Investor, "the time to buy is when everybody else is talking a market down because so many of the talkers are merely repeating the earlier views of others and by the time they are all saying the same thing the market could be nearing the end of its cycle."

"How do you see the mining markets at the moment?" asked the Cautious Man. "As far as the metal prices are concerned," said the Old Investor, "they cannot be said to be high but they could still ease for a while. There seems to be no hurry to buy shares of the producers, but when the metal price recovery comes it will be sharp and in advance of the pick-up in physical demand for metal if past experience is anything to go by."

A thoughtful silence was broken by the Eager Man. "So *what you are saying is that we are in a kind of no-go period at the moment?*" Dutifully the Young Investor sent the port on its clock-wise journey and asked, "surely there must be some investment opportunities?"

"Come on," added the brandy-emboldened Bookmaker, "tell us what you fancy." "Apart from another cup of coffee," answered the Old Investor, "South Africa with its still strong economy has its attractions and I like the look of General Mining Union Corporation with its spread of gold, platinum, base metal, energy and South African industrial investments."

"You're still bullish of gold which has been falling back despite the war in the Middle East and sabre-rattlings elsewhere!" exclaimed the Cautious Man. "Yes," replied the Old Investor. "You forget that political events have less bearing on the overall course of the gold price than supply-demand and economic factors.

"I fear that inflation will be with us for very much longer than the present high interest rates and it is continuing world inflation that will lead the gold price upwards again next year. But the metal has made up a lot of ground in the past two years and I am not looking for any dramatic rise in 1981."

"How about gold shares?" asked the Young Investor. "Because I am not expecting a dramatic rise in the bullion price," replied the Old Investor, "and because operating costs continue to escalate and many mines have heavy capital expenditure on hand, we cannot expect to see dividends growing at anything like the rate of the past year or so.

"A good deal of the shine has thus gone out of this share-market. If, as some people think likely, next year brings some kind of economic recovery in the U.S. there could be a switch of *investment* interest to the base metal issues and this will not help gold shares.

"*In the meantime, however, they remain very responsive to any recovery in the gold price and they could well make a good showing over the next few months, at least.*" "*Right!*" said the Bookmaker, "*which share do we go for?*"

"Better play safe and keep to the top-class issues," answered the Old Investor. The Bookmaker, who made most of his money out of those hopefuls who insisted on backing hopeless animals at long odds, nodded approvingly; he was happy to let others take risks.

"Good grade gold ore, relatively low costs and, if possible, no unduly heavy capital expenditure on hand are the things to look for," said the Old Investor.

The others then began to argue among themselves on the merits of their various gold favourites and suddenly became aware of the fact that the Old Investor's chair was empty and the door was closing.

"He might have said goodnight," said the Young Investor who was still holding the cup of coffee that he had belatedly poured for the Old Investor.

"I thought he did," said the Cautious Man.

"Sounded like it," added the Bookmaker.

"No," said the Eager Man. "He said East Driefontein."

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Tim Dickson looks at high income unit trusts

Bad dreams and slashed dividends

INCOME TRUSTS

FUND	Size (£m)	Offer Price (1.1.80)	Offer Price (18.12.80)	% Increase in last 12 month Distribution
Allied Hambro:				
High Income	34.0	68.7	79.8	19.6
Equity Income	27.5	41.1	46.9	31.3
Barclays Unicorn:				
Extra Income	43.3	29.0	30.7	16.9
Britannia:				
National High	22.5	72.4	76.4	11.0
Extra Income	17.0	35.9	34.7	10.2
Framlington:				
Income	11.6	36.2	39.4	12.3
Hill Samuel:				
High Yield	11.8	26.3	26.6	28.5
Income	18.8	25.8	28.5	4.3
M & G:				
High Income	37.0	104.2	106*	13.7
Save & Prosper:				
High Yield	40.0	50.9	56.2	12.0
Income	40.0	40.5	43.8	9.4
Scotyield:	45.0	48.3	53.0	11.3
Tyndall:				
Income	22.0	92.4	93.8	17.3

* Ex dividend.

"DON'T TELL me you're going to cut your dividend too," a fund manager is said to have yelled in his sleep recently. Pillow talk takes many forms but this unusually sharp exchange illustrates the nightmares suffered by those who run high income unit trusts.

Every day dividends are being slashed, or even passed completely, and the casualty list over the last few months includes major companies, such as Courtaulds, Metal Box and GKN, which form the cornerstone of most high income portfolios.

Although there are not yet many visible signs, unitholders in the next few months are undoubtedly going to feel the effects. M and G, for example, gave a warning this week that if UK companies continue to cut their dividends, it will be extremely difficult to raise or even maintain the High Income fund's distribution in 1981.

Mr. Anthony Milford, manager of the successful Framlington Income Fund, is also under no illusions. "I can't see the situation getting any better next year and it would be foolish to pretend that companies which have cut their payouts will suddenly restore them. The best that investors in income funds can hope for is a small increase in distributions over the next year."

As the accompanying table shows—it is a sample of some of the bigger funds—income funds have had a reasonably happy time in 1980. The column on the right makes clear that most have managed to record healthy increases in their distributions in the past 12 months while in many cases investors have benefited from some useful *capital growth.*

The column on the right, however, should be treated cautiously. In some cases the percentage increase depends very much on the timing of the last distribution. For example, Framlington's 12.3 per *cent is based on a distribution* declared but not yet paid: ignoring this, the figure would be 26.3 per cent.

The sort of increases in distribution shown in the table, however, are certainly not going to last. Fund managers, whose *stated aim is usually to increase* the payout each year in line with inflation, may soon be faced either with the prospect of only being able to maintain the previous level or, worse still, administering the unpalatable cut.

There is, moreover, not a great deal of room for manoeuvre. Besides highly skilled investment management —avoiding all companies cutting their dividends will be as difficult as walking blindfold through a minefield—unit trust groups may well try to boost their distributions by "buying income."

In effect, this means buying stocks cum dividend and selling them after they go "ex." Unit trusts, on the other hand, well know—and unitholders should also appreciate—that capital values are bound to suffer.

Gold shares, which traditionally have very high yields, are another option but because of their volatile behaviour seldom form more than a small part of a high income portfolio. Overseas stocks are also kept to a minimum because their income is unfranked and therefore liable to corporation tax—that is, at 52 per cent.

M and G has 5 per cent of its high income trust in gold shares and while life is "jolly uncomfortable" it feels there is "plenty of fight" in the fund.

Framlington has about 8 per cent of its Income portfolio overseas and says it is concentrating on UK companies with sound balance sheets.

Tyndall, expects the first half of 1981 to be "pretty grim" but with falling interest rates over the period feels there will be a perception of gradual improvement reflected in higher share prices from the second half of the year.

Britannia is another group which feels high income funds could be ripe for recovery later on next year. A final word, however, from John Manser of Save and Prosper: "We cannot ignore reality. A few months ago companies were doing everything to avoid making cuts. Now it is almost becoming popular."

Crash goes your premium

INSURANCE

JOHN PHILIP

IF YOUR CAR is damaged in a traffic accident by the negligence of some other motorist, *you can in law look to that* motorist to compensate you—not for every pennyworth of financial loss that you sustain, but for all financial loss that the law considers not to be "too remote."

Remoteness *of damage is a* legal topic on which millions of words must have been written and spoken in and out of our courts in this century alone. Sufficient be it here for me to say that when the courts consider claims for compensation *they take the view that in deter*mining the wrongdoer's financial liability "the line must be drawn somewhere" otherwise there would be no end to demands on the wrongdoer's funds: and losses beyond that line are "too remote."

But what is "too remote?" If you are involved in a traffic accident where you are partly to blame—say at a cross roads—and you claim on your own insurers for the repair to your car, you will probably suffer some loss of no claims discount. *Insurers' NCD clauses vary* (and some insurers sell NCD protected policies) but often a claim involves reduction in NCD at next renewal by the percentage appropriate for one or two years. And with present day motor premiums, loss of even 10 per cent NCD may involve you in paying an extra £30 to £50 at next renewal. Leaving aside the arguments on contributory negligence, is loss of NCD "too remote?"

Again, if you have a policy that allows you only one total *loss in the year, you can lose* a substantial amount of premium if, early on in the year, you car is so badly damaged that it is not economically repairable. Your insurers, by their contract conditions, take your policy and certificate *back, keep the balance of* premium, and make you start again when you get your replacement car by paying another full annual premium. If your car has been "written off" by the negligence of another motorist, is your loss of premium a loss that is "too remote"?

My guess is that most of you would reckon that in either of these cases, you should be able to get compensation for loss of NCD or for loss of premium—and I think you might well be surprised to learn that hitherto the law has not been at all clear: there were reported legal decisions both for and against the proposition that these losses are "too remote."

But this week the New Law Journal carries a report of a Court of Appeal decision *reached last February in the* case of *Patel v London Transport Executive.* The report is short, and is taken from the Court of Appeal transcripts—a fuller report may perhaps eventually become available elsewhere. It seems that Mr. Patel's car was so severely damaged in a traffic accident that his insurers wrote it off. They paid him for his car, but cancelled his policy and as the accident occurred just after renewal, he lost 51-52nds of the premium he had paid. As the accident had been the fault of a driver employed by the LTE Mr. Patel asked for compensation for his £218 worth of lost insurance premium: he had to go to court, he got judgment, but the LTE appealed on the grounds that the loss was "too remote."

The Court of Appeal decided that Mr. Patel should be paid his lost premium, and in doing so approved another ill reported decision, *Ironfield v Eastern Gas Board* where in 1964, the aggrieved motorist had been held entitled to recover his lost NCD.

Now, with this Court of Appeal judgment in *Patel v LTE,* the legal position should be clearly established subject to any appeal on point of principle in a similar case to the House of Lords: this is a theoretical, rather than a practical possi*bility having regard to* the relatively small amount of money involved and the very high cost of litigation.

So claims for loss of NCD or loss of premium, should now in practice line up alongside claims for deprivation, loss of use, extra travelling expenses and so on—claims which are handled in their hundreds every day of the week by insurers. The vast majority of these third party damage uninsured loss claims, call them what you will, fetch up on insurers' desks.

So the decision in *Patel v LTE,* while settling the law, and making it seem that much more just for many an aggrieved motorist, will cost insurers money, because they will now have to pay more on many third party damage claims. And as *that cost comes through during* 1981 it will inevitably add extra pence to the next round of premium increases that many insurers have already planned to make.

If you want to start an oil company

THESE DAYS everyone is an *oil man. Normally sedate* bankers, accountants, fund managers, stockbrokers, directors of major food companies and the odd construction sector magnate are just some of the people who have found that they can live out their fantasies in oil and gas exploration.

In this world, there are several different kinds of company. It is not terribly easy to start a "major" oil company. There are very few of these in the world — the Exxons, Shells and BPs of the industry. It takes about 30 to 50 years to get one of these organisations going and a staff of thousands.

Next comes the "intermediate" sized company — a Tricentrol or an Ultramar. Once again, a bit too large to start from your living room in East Grinstead.

A small North Sea exploration company appeals. This can be somewhat easier to break into, but it requires solid backing from serious stockbrokers, merchant bankers and the permission of the Department of Energy. Not necessarily an overnight venture.

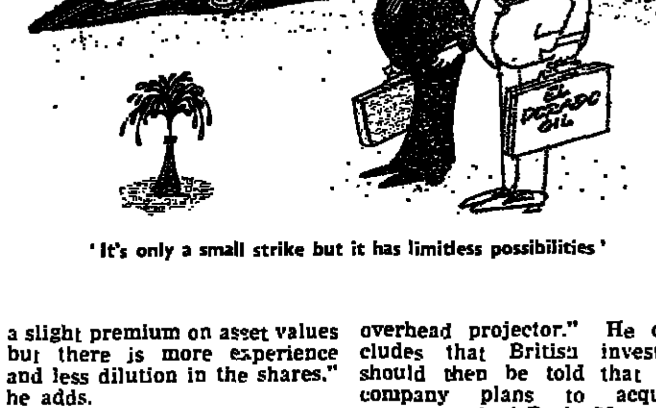
No, if oil exploration is truly desired then one must take a broader view, across the Atlantic Ocean perhaps. Over the past few months the North American oil capitals of Houston and Calgary have been *pouring forth a near flood of* tiny exploration vehicles.

These fledglings have arrived in London without a barrel in their balance sheets and have raised millions of pounds on the back of seismic reports, oil industry veterans and a variety *of intangibles which all add* up to faith.

By obtaining foreign listings in places like Vancouver or Luxembourg and then raising money in London among UK institutions companies like Calais Resources, Dale Petroleum and others have been able to take advantage of a vacuum which exists in the London market.

This dearth of highly specu*lative exploration companies* is rapidly turning into a surfeit as UK funds take off through the open doors of the City and into the wild blue yonder previously barred by exchange controls.

But just how easy is it to start an exploration company? *Says one stockbroker who has* packaged several deals: "You need a lot of credibility to raise money in the City. In the end the investors are backing one or two men with oil industry experience."



'It's only a small strike but it has limitless possibilities'

Crediblity is the first prerequisite. The structure of the vehicle is second. In its most basic format the business can be a "drilling fund"—an investing shell into which the pounds are deposited and from which the oil wells are drilled.

Crediblity, however, may be a relative thing. Mr. Michael Unsworth, an oil analyst with stockbrokers Scott, Goff, Hancock, comments that all too frequently the explorers do not have a sufficient track record to be worthy of a £5m or £10m investment.

Another problem may exist within the structure. "Often they are just drilling funds which buy into U.S. or Canadian ventures at too high a price. There is often a rake-off for an associated management company in the form of fees, overriding royalties or by paying a larger share of the drilling cost than the net revenue share," he says.

Unsworth adds that in the case of some new companies there is not even a land-bank of firm prospects. The impressively high drilling success rates of operators cited by companies may simply reflect a low-risk property which is also low-return, he says.

Scott Goff's advice to UK investors, notes Unsworth, is to avoid most of the new companies and look at domestic U.S. companies with a long track record of exploration. "You may pay a slight premium on asset values but there is more experience and less dilution in the shares," he adds.

But the lure of black gold can be strong. For those not daunted by the risks of the business there may still be time to form a company before the London investment bubble bursts. To this end Unsworth offers the following pointers:

"You start with a Stetson and a pair of boots. Take a few speech lessons so you can talk like a Texan or a Western Canadian. Get yourself a quote *on the Vancouver or Alberta or* Luxembourg Stock Exchange. Now you are ready to come to London.

"Go to a small broking firm and say you want to start an oil exploration company. Next go around to fund managers and wealthy clients, with a large prospectus."

It also helps, according to City analysts, to hire a few employees in North America and possibly wheel them over here on a visit. A suite of offices in places like Calgary or Dallas is another useful item.

Unsworth's technical advice is to "bring lots of maps and an overhead projector." He concludes that British investors should then be told that the company plans to acquire acreage in the "Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt" or the "Tuscaloosa Trend" or a similarly promising region.

It is not a bad thing to be able to mention the name of a U.S. or Canadian partner as well. Under the right terms, explains Unsworth, partners are not very difficult to find. "What's more," he adds, "you might even drill a well."

Old hands in the oil exploration game warn that this is a business not to be taken lightly. Millions of pounds may be at stake in just one big venture—known in the argot as a "play" —and the unlucky company (and shareholder) could come up with a dry well.

Nonetheless, the oil prospectors keep on coming. Some of the more recent offers have not been as wildly oversubscribed as in the past, but this has not yet stifled enthusiasm. From Edmonton to Esher they arrive in the City, ready to risk tidy sums of (other people's) money *in the hope of the "one big* play" which will strike it rich.

Alan Friedman

A shot from Cannon

INVESTORS WHO took out one-year income bonds towards *the end of last year, to take* advantage of the 17 per cent yields, have a problem. They have just received their income and their money back, but they cannot immediately reinvest it in a current income bond.

That ultra-high yield was paid for by getting two years' tax relief on the plan, so this year's tax relief has been used up. Now investors are faced with the prospect of having to put the money in a building society until the new tax year starts next April in the hope that interest rates will not fall too far. They cannot reinvest in another income bond because these rely on tax relief being available.

But Cannon Assurance has come up with a solution. The company's new Four-Year Plus High Income Bond enables investors to put their money in the bond now to take advantage of the high interest rates and avoid the risk that they may be much lower by next April.

What the bond does is simply defer investment until next April, but at the same time guaranteeing current interest rates. There are the usual four pure endowment policies feeding into a 10-year qualifying policy with the surplus providing the income. The qualifying policy starts on April 6, 1981, and the first annual premium is paid by means of a fifth special life policy maturing on that date.

The drawback in the scheme is that the first income payment does not come until April 1982 —over 15 months away. But this would happen if the investor kept the money himself until April.

The yields offered by the bond vary from 11.4 per cent net of basic rate tax for inves*tors under 65 to 12.8 per cent* for the 80-year-olds. Cannon has adopted that infuriating practice of having as its headline in its literature "Up to 12.8 per cent per annum." Experience shows that the average age of income bond *investors is in the early 60s.*

Eric Short

Duties of an executor

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I am the executor for an elderly gentleman who for many years lived in the London area but for the last three has been in the West Midlands. Whereas I am quite satisfied that there are no outstanding claims against him, having been closely involved with the handling of his financial affairs for these last three years, could you please advise if a public notice is required, and under what sections of the Trustee Act 1925? If so, is such a notice in the local West Midlands newspaper sufficient, or should it be repeated in the local newspaper in the London suburb?

You are not obliged to advertise, but you remain liable to discharge debts which have not been provided for if you do not do so. Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 enables you to advertise. This must be in the London Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the district in which any land is situated, and in such other papers as seem appropriate, that is, in the districts where any business was carried on by the deceased. Thus it seems that local papers in both the West Midlands and London should be used.

Apportionment of dividends

I understand that Section 2 of the Apportionment Act, 1870, directs apportionment of dividends received after the date of death unless the Will directs otherwise. Where the Act applies on the death of a life tenant I further understand that if the shares are sold prior to receipt of the dividend, no apportionment is necessary, but this is not so if the shares are transferred to the remainderman. Knowing this latter point, the remainderman rather than having the shares transferred to him and selling them himself, can apparently avoid paying the apportioned income to the deceased life tenant's estate by directing the Trustee to sell the shares on his behalf. Is my understanding correct? Is there no difference between a Trustee selling the shares to put him in funds to meet expenses, etc. and selling them at the request of the remainderman?

What you suggest may be the case where the investment is sold cum dividend *and* the Trustee sells in the exercise of his duties or discretions as a trustee sc. for the benefit of the fund. If he does so merely at the request of the remainderman, the court may equate the sale to a transfer to the remainderman and apportion. See generally *Re Henderson* 1940 Ch.368.

Enforcement of a covenant

My new neighbour has erected a large shed on our boundary, though there is a covenant on the land which restricts building to a dwelling house, a garage for the use of the owner, or a greenhouse. On my protesting about this, he said there were other covenants which had been broken and he intended to ignore it. Is there anything I can do about it, apart from going to Court?

If the covenant is one which you are entitled to enforce you must act promptly if you are not to lose that right. You must therefore decide whether to *commence court* proceedings or not speedily; and, if you decide not to, forego the right. You could invite others who might be concerned at the breach of covenant to join forces with you. We cannot advise as to the enforceability of the covenant without knowing the precise terms of the covenant itself.

An unremittable gain

I have inquired of the Inland Revenue Authorities, as to the position regarding capital gains tax in this country, in the event of my being unable to transfer any of the proceeds of the sales of some property in Southern Italy, but they refused to pronounce an what they consider a hypothetical case. Could you advise me as to the likelihood of the Inland Revenue levying a Capital Gains assessment on funds which are frozen in a foreign country?

You should go back to the tax office and ask for a copy of the free booklet CGT8 (Capital gains tax), since your question is substantially answered in paragraph 313: "Where a person realises a gain on the disposal of assets situated abroad, but is genuinely unable to transfer that gain to the United Kingdom because of restrictions imposed abroad or because foreign currency is unobtainable, the amount of the gain may be omitted from assessment for the year in which it arose. Instead, the gain will be assessed to capital gains tax in the United Kingdom when it becomes remittable. Claims to this relief have to be made within six years of the year in which the gain was realised.

No liability to executors

My mother decided to sell her house and go to live abroad. She left England last July but the sale was delayed because of a planning problem and she allowed the intending purchaser to move in. He died shortly afterwards, but not before starting some alterations to the building. Can the purchaser's executors be compelled to complete the purchase? If not, do they have any legal liability to reinstate the house in its original condition, or completing the alterations?

The executors can be compelled to complete the purchase only if there was a binding contract of sale. Otherwise there is no liability of the estate unless there were conditions expressly attached to the permission to take possession and those conditions have been broken.

Patients unable to make a will

A neighbour for whom I am to act as executor has left a will, by far the main asset of his estate being his bungalow, which on his death was to be sold and the proceeds divided among a sealed list of beneficiaries deposited with his solicitor. The residue of his estate is to be divided between 6 beneficiaries of whom I am one. From the deterioration of his mental health, it looks as though he will have to go into a nursing home and I shall have to sell the bungalow and invest the money to help to pay his fees. Such a sale would greatly enlarge the residue of his estate and might exclude those whom my neighbour most wishes to benefit. I do not think he is mentally capable of understanding a change to his will, which in any case might be challenged. Do you think the situation could be resolved by paying the sale proceeds into a separate deposit account so that the intention of the original will could be realised?

It is not possible to achieve your object by setting aside a fund. A codicil to the will is necessary; and this can be effected by an application in the Court of Protection if the patient is no longer able to make a will. The alternative is for you to disclaim your interests under the will in the event of other residuary beneficiaries being also named as sharing in the proceeds of the bungalow.

Possible sex discrimination

Some years ago the company by which I am employed introduced a superannuation scheme which made provision for back service to the age of 30 in the case of women and 25 in the case of men and these are the entry ages for those who subsequently came into the employment of the company. The scheme has a provision whereby a woman's service prior to the age of 30, but not earlier than age 25, is taken into account when determining the pension payable provided she remains in the employment of the company until the normal retirement age. As the outlook for the company is poor I may be obliged to seek alternative employment long before reaching retirement age. In this case, I shall have a paid up pension from the company to be drawn at the age of 60 but my five years service between the ages of 25 and 30 will not be taken into account whereas all male employees in similar circumstances will have such service brought into the reckoning. Does this, in your view, constitute sex discrimination within the meaning of UK and/or EEC law and, if so, what action do you advise me to take?

Without seeing the terms of the Trust Deed and Rules of your pension scheme we cannot say, but there seems to be a possibility that the scheme is discriminatory. You may care to consult the Community Programmes and Equal Opportunities Department at the Home Office as that department concerns itself with the working of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

Equities—the lessons of 1980

INVESTMENT

BARRY RILEY

RARELY CAN a year have shown such variability in share price performances as 1980. In *deciding last January that the* outlook for the equity market was promising, at least later in the year, I was proved right.

	Percentage change since Jan. 4, 1980
Union Discount	+41
Redland	−7
BAT Industries	unchanged
GT Japan	+49
Cadbury Shweppes	+25
Ranks Hovis McDougall	+1
Delta Metal	−17
Thorn EMI	+13
Grattan Warehouses	−37
Average	+8
F.T.A. All-Share Index	+27

After wobbling in the spring, share prices performed strongly from the end of May until late November. But it was very *important to get the sectors* right.

Overall the nine shares in the portfolio currently show average growth of 8 per cent, and including dividends received of almost 10 per cent (none of the companies has cut its payout) the gross return is some 18 per cent. At least that compares favourably with inflation. And I made it clear that I was taking a low risk approach.

But *it is scarcely* what might have been hoped, especially given that the nine shares at their respective 1980 highs showed average appreciation of 30 per cent.

If any one factor can take the blame, it must be the outbreak *of the Iran/Iraq war.* This abruptly invalidated my expectations that the world oil price would turn soft, that sterling would be correspondingly easy later in the year, and that the manufacturing sectors would show significant signs of recovery.

There has indeed been some marginal relative strength in manufacturing shares in recent weeks, but the portfolio was undoubtedly held back by its heavy weighting of five UK industrials.

I was also out of luck in my choice of takeover speculation, where my decision to avoid Decca in favour of Grattan was swiftly proved wrong (although in the light of subsequent *revelations of the size of Decca's* losses and debts I still cannot fault my original logic).

Elsewhere the story proved better. I was right to suggest that financials would prove strong, with the exception of the clearing banks. Union Discount has performed well even though the fall in interest rates over 1980 has been less sharp than was hoped a year ago. It is a pity that I did not select a *merchant bank as* well.

BAT Industries inevitably suffered from the strength of sterling, but at one stage was up a quarter and its contribution was boosted by high income. My other overseas hedge proved to be the star performer, with GT Japan achieving a strong late run while most of the UK shares were weakening.

The momentum here came not just from the firmness of the underlying Japanese stock market but also from the search by UK *institutional investors* for a suitable specialist investment trust vehicle, which has sent the GT Japan share price at times to a small premium over asset value.

Two general lessons can be drawn from the performance of *the UK equity market this year.* One is that in conditions of severe recession—the worst experienced since the 1930s—it is very risky to buy into recovery situations. In such conditions the strong will survive and may even prosper—GEC is a case in point—but the weak are likely to get even weaker.

The second lesson is that major structural changes are taking place in the economy and these *are reflected in an* extreme form in the stock market. Great manufacturing groups with proud histories have been reduced to minnows compared with upstart resource companies.

Although some liken the whole business to the casinos of Monte Carlo the game of oil and gas exploration is a highly entrepreneurial activity. It is only the payout to shareholders which may sometimes remind one of a roulette table. But then we can't all be J.R.

PROPERTY/MOTORING

Paul Jackson is selling The Old Cottage, Yarmouth, on an asking figure of £65,000. The period cottage, which has views of the sea and harbour, has 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a guest suite, plus a walled garden. Details Jackson & Jackson, The House On The Quay, Lymington, Hampshire (0590 75025).

Sands Barn House in South Newington, an Oxfordshire village, has 5 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, plus a flower and vegetable garden and an orchard in ½ of an acre. Offers in the region of £80,000 to Ian McConnel, Savills, 21 Horse Fair, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Buyer's market brings problems

BY JUNE FIELD

WITH SUCH a variety of homes for sale everywhere, plus reasonable availability of mortgages, it must surely have been if not a profitable year, at least a challenging one for estate agents.

Frustration comes when stocks are low, and there is little to sell to produce adequate turnover.

Yet the hardening of values and the transition from a seller's to a buyer's market, appears to have made for far too much gloom and doom among the professionals. It is hoped that the recent drop in interest and mortgage rates will bring back enthusiasm to the market.

The Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers reports: "All over the country, in every sector of housing, prices are at a virtual standstill. High mortgage interest rates and the generally gloomy economic climate have combined to drive any prospect of buoyancy out of the market."

Its latest survey of prices indicated the slowest rate of increase since the exercise began in April, 1978. (Analysis showed that the average cost of a house at the end of October was £27,631, only 0.6 per cent over the £27,466 recorded in July.)

While the residential property market is considered by many as a reliable barometer of general confidence, and a low level of activity a source of worry to economists, a cooling-down period on prices was needed.

Mr. Paul Jackson of Jackson and Jackson, whose Lymington and New Milton offices include the New Forest area and the Isle of Wight, sums up the changing pattern of the market in his firm's *Property Review 1980*.

1970 Noticeable increase in demand for all types of property. Banks and building societies helpful with funds.

1971 House prices rising faster than ever before. Buoyant second home market.

1972 Tremendous property shortage. Ample mortgage funds. Soaring prices and "gazumping."

1973 Glut of property. Highest ever interest rates. Levelling prices.

1974 General uncertainty. Falling prices. Buyers' market.

1975 Backlog of property. Improved mortgage position. Record sales—but little evidence of price increases.

1976 Progressive return of confidence. Evidence of slight price rises in the lower ranges. Mortgage rate rises in autumn to 12¼ per cent.

1977 Reduction in mortgage rate and record availability of funds. Steadily increasing prices.

1978 25 per cent increase in values and return to sellers' market. Mortgage queue because of Government's restrictions and reduction of funds. Record number of instructions and sales. Rises in mortgate interest rates to 11¾ per cent in early winter.

1979 Record rise in house prices of between 30 per cent and 35 per cent. Shortage of building society funds, higher mortgage rates.

1980 No noticeable increase in house prices. Highest ever mortgage rates due to high interest rates. Reversal from sellers' to buyers' market.

One facet of the past year's property market was the re-emergence of the property shops which charge for featuring a property, but the vendor does the actual selling. So far there is no evidence of how much business they have creamed off from traditional agents.

The growing trend of "non-accompanied" viewing is the largest contributory factor to the increase of private sales today, Mrs. Maureen Freeman, a Cardiff agent believes. In the journal of The National Association of Estate Agents, she says, "After all, why should anyone pay around £500 to an estate agent, and then find they have to re-organise themselves and their lives to show prospective applicants around their house (usually in the evenings or weekends): then when a party makes an offer, they have to get in touch with their agent to inform him, when a part of his job, and in my opinion, a very important part, has been done.

"Often at this point, if the vendor is under pressure to sell he may accept any offer. Whereas if the agent were present he might well persuade the purchaser to increase the figure.

Putting on the Ritz

BY STUART MARSHALL

TAKE A Honda Executive Automatic. Restyle the front end with an electrically controlled aerofoil that lifts to expose the headlamps fully. Refurnish the interior with seats trimmed in Connolly leather and Dralon, fit a walnut trimmed fascia and door cappings and add lambswool rugs to the wall-to-wall carpet. And rename the end product the Ritz. That is Rapport International's recipe for small-scale luxury town transport for 1981.

Rapport are in the customising business. They take a standard motor car and move it up-market in appearance and comfort while leaving the mechanical side unchanged, thus eliminating servicing problems before they arise.

Before conversion, the Honda Executive automatic is well equipped for its role as a town car. It performs briskly though quite economically, has power assisted rack and pinion steering and a compact turning circle of just over 32 feet. Proper refrigerated air conditioning, a feature of the Ritz, is a standard Honda option anyway. All of which accounts for the moderate price of £10,986—moderate, that is, when the high cost of hand craftsmanship is borne in mind. (The basic Executive automatic costs £5,060.)

The first Ritz will be completed in Rapport's new factory at the end of next month and they hope to produce 50 cars during 1981. If all goes well, output should be up to 200 a year by 1982. Meantime, two-door convertible and estate car versions of the Ritz are planned.

The aerofoil which is so distinctive a feature of the Ritz was first seen on the Rapport Forte, an exotic, hand-built sporting convertible with an ingenious metal folding roof that was unveiled last summer. By day the headlamps live behind a narrow slot which is, however, wide enough for "flashed" warnings to be given. At night, the aerofoil rises vertically, completely exposing the headlamps but maintaining its drag reducing benefits.

The idea of making Ritzy (if Rapport will forgive me) versions of fairly ordinary cars is, of course, by no means new. Vanden Plas versions of BL's volume cars, with bigger, leather-trimmed seats, thick carpets and lashings of wood veneer, have been offered for years. The Rover 3500 is the latest BL product to get the Vanden Plas treatment. (Vanden Plas? It's the name of an old coachbuilder absorbed into BL years ago.)

Even closer in concept to the Ritz was the Panther Rio, a reshaped and superbly reupholstered Triumph Dolomite with a front end that, four years ago, bore a remarkable resemblance to that of the new Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit's.

Even in 1976 the Rio cost getting on for £10,000 on the road. This was clearly too much for the men about town at which it was aimed and the price fell by more than £1,000 the following year. But to no avail. The Rio was dropped from the Panther range within two years. Perhaps it was in advance of its time. The need for inconspicuous consumption in motoring was not then apparent.

Panther, whose coachbuilding skill is internationally admired, have taken a new lease of life. After hitting a high point with the Lima sports car in 1976—it was an attractive two-seater catching the atmosphere of the Thirties while using Vauxhall mechanicals — Panther had severe financial problems. They finally went into receivership but things are different now. The business was sold last month to Young C. Kim, president of the South Korean Jindo Group. He has formed a partnership with Panther's founder, Robert Jankel.

Backed by South Korean money (Jindo are the largest makers of shipping containers and fur coats in the Far East, and much else besides) Panther will continue to produce Jankel-designed cars at the factory on the old Brooklands track at Byfleet, Surrey. They will soon include the Equus sports car.

This is based on the Panther Lima chassis but is as contemporary in line as the Lima is nostalgic. Vauxhall, who created the Equus as an exercise in style and design, said at its debut two years ago that, just possibly, it could be the next great British sports car. It won't, one feels, be Young C. Kim's and Robert Jankel's fault if that prophecy isn't fulfilled.

The Rapport Ritz. Smaller-scale luxury based on Honda running gear for use mainly in town.

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

NO ONE who went to Kempton yesterday can have been disappointed by the sport. As might have been expected both the William Hill Christmas Hurdle and the King George VI Chase proved the highlights of the afternoon.

Silver Buck won the King George VI Chase for a second year in succession. But it might well have been an entirely different story had Anaglog's Daughter not run far too freely in the early stages, and the dual Champion Hurdler Night Nurse not made a hash of the third from last fence and the final obstacle.

Thirty-five minutes earlier those who have been supporting Heighlin for the Champion Hurdle must have been disappointed by the four-year-old's performance in the William Hill Christmas Hurdle.

Steve Jobar's mount had his measure taken by both Bird's Nest and Celtic Ryde as they approached the final flight. Celtic Ryde, the 2-1 second favourite, was left with the race at his mercy as Bird's Nest met that obstacle all wrong.

The pair finished some way clear of Heighlin. However, bookmakers were clearly not unduly impressed by Celtic Ryde's winning performance and he is still available at 12-1 for the Cheltenham Championship. Silver Buck has been trimmed to a general offer of 8-1 for the Gold Cup, but he, too, did not inspire much confidence.

There are few more accomplished young jockeys now riding than Ben de Haan, who claims the 4 lbs allowance, and it wil lbe intriguing to see what tactics he employs on Stopped at Kempton this afternoon.

The partnership looks the one to be on in the two-mile Avenue Chase in which, disappointingly, Chumson and Go Arrowsmith are the only other runners.

With another small field in his favour and the cut in the ground which suits him best, Stopped seems likely to have too much pace for Chumson who would be seen to better advantage over a considerably longer trip.

Indeed, Go Arrowsmith looks the better prospect for the forecast.

KEMPTON
12.30—Pride O'Malley**
1.00—Stopped***
1.30—Dramatist
2.00—Woodford Prince
2.30—Cranbourne Tower
3.00—Chevington

NEWCASTLE
1.45—Political Pop
2.15—Be Free
2.45—Bamp
3.15—Snow Blessed*

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM. S 836 3161. CC 240 5258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Tonight & Fri. 6.30: Boris Godunov. Wed. 7.30: The Barber of Seville. 104 balcony seats avail from 10 am on day of perf.

COVENT GARDEN. 240 1066. 'S'. (Gardencharge CC 836 6903). 65 Amphi seats avail. for all perfs. from 10.00 am on the day of perf. THE ROYAL BALLET Ton't & Wed. at 7.30 Cinderella. THE ROYAL OPERA Tues. at 7.30. Fri. at 7.00 Les Contes d'Hoffmann. Thurs. at 7.30 L'elisir d'amore.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01-928 3191. LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET Until Jan. 14. A Holiday Treat for all the family. Ronald Hynd's THE NUTCRACKER Daily 3.00 & 7.30 until Jan 3. Today: Hill, Johnson. Ton't: Ruanne, Jolley.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE EC1. Tel. 01-837 1672/3856/7505. Until Feb. 21 D'OYLY CARTE presents GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERAS. Today 2.30 & 7.30 The Sorcerer. Mon., Tue. 7.30, Wed. 2.30 & 7.30 The Mikado. Fri. 7.30, Sat. next 2.30 & 7.30 HMS Pinafore. Tkts. £2.00 to £7.50.

THEATRES

ADELPHI. CC 01-836 7611. Eves. at 7.30 Sat. 4.00, 7.45. Mats. Thurs. at 3.00. TONY BRITTON, CAROLINE VILLIERS, PETER BAYLISS and ANNA NEAGLE in MY FAIR LADY. Group bookings ring 01-836 7358 or 01-379 6061.

ALBERY. 836 3878. CC bkg. 379 6565. Gp. bkgs. 836 3962 or 379 6061. Eves. 8.00. Thurs. Mat. 4.30, Sat. 5.00 & 8.15. Special Mat. New Year's Day. Seats from £2.90. Sian Phillips, Denis Lawson. Half Moon Production Rodgers & Hart's PAL JOEY.

ALDWYCH. S 836 6404. CC 379 6233 (10-6, Sats. 10-4). Info 836 5332. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY NICHOLAS NICKLEBY by Charles Dickens. Today Part 1 2.00, Part 2 7.00 sold out. Personal and telephone booking now open for premiere of PASSION PLAY by Peter Nichols, Nikolai Erdman's THE SUICIDE and O'Casey's JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK. For RSC Prestel key 22023. Group Sales Box Office 379 6061. RSC also at The Warehouse/Piccadilly.

AMBASSADORS. S. CC. 836 1171. Eves. 8. Tue. Mat. 3. Sat. 5.30 & 8.30. No Perf. 1 Jan. Extra Mat. 2 Jan. 5.30. J. B. PRIESTLEY'S DANGEROUS CORNER. A Mystery Play. FIRST WEST END PRODUCTION SINCE 1938.

APOLLO. S. CC. 01-437 2663. Grp. sales 379 6061. Eves. 8.00. Wed. & Sat. 5.00 & 8.00. RODNEY BEWES, FRANCIS MATTHEWS in MIDDLE AGE SPREAD. Comedy of the Year. West End Theatre Awards 1979.

APOLLO VICTORIA. Tel: 01-828 6491. 01-834 2819. Today 2.00, 5.00, 8.00. Mon. to Fri. 2.30 & 7.30. Sats. Jan. 3 & 10 4.30 & 7.30. LITTLE & LARGE CHRISTMAS CRACKER. Special Guest Star SHEENA EASTON. Tickets £2.50, £3.50 £4.50. Credit Cards Accepted.

ARTS THEATRE. S. 01-836 3344-2132. Mon.-Thurs. Eves. 8.00. Fri. and Sat. 6.30 and 9.00. JOE ORTON'S LOOT. Directed by KENNETH WILLIAMS.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE. S. 01-836 6056. Credit cards hotline 01-836 7040. 01-240 5679. JOAN COLLINS, SIMON WILLIAMS, JAMES VILLIERS, ELSPETH ALDRIDGE in THE LAST OF MRS. CHEYNEY. Directed by NIGEL PATRICK. Evs. Mon.-Fri. at 8.0. Wed. 3.0. Sat. 5.00 & 8.30. Anti-inflation policy—seats at £1.50, £2.50, £4.00 in stalls and royal circle. Students, Nurses, OAPs £1.50. Group sales 379 6061 and 836 6056.

CHICHESTER. Festival Theatre. 0243 781312. Until Jan. 17. CIRCUS OZ. The Perfect Xmas entertainment.

COLLEGIATE THEATRE. 01-387 9629. THE MAGIC CIRCLE SHOW. International Acts in Great Family Show. BOOK NOW! One Week only Dec. 29-Jan. 3. Mat. & Evg. Perfs. Every Day.

COMEDY THEATRE. S. CC. 01-930 2578. Limited season. Mon.-Sat. 8.15. Mats. Thur. 3.00. Sat. 4.00. Evgs. perf. only Jan. 1. RALPH RICHARDSON in the National Theatre Production EARLY DAYS by David Storey.

CRITERION. S. 930 3216. CC 379 6565. Grp. bkgs. 379 6061 or 836 3962. Eves. 8. Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. ROBIN RAY, JONATHAN ADAMS, MARTIN CONNOR, TRICIA GEORGE in A LIGHTHEARTED REVUE TOMFOOLERY. The words, music & lyrics of TOM LEHRER.

DUCHESS TH. CC. 01-836 8243. Group sales 379 6061. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. & Sat. 5.0 & 8.00. No perfs. 1 Jan., extra mat. 2 Jan. 5 pm. MARIA AITKEN, MICHAEL JAYSTON in Noel Coward's PRIVATE LIVES. LAST THREE WEEKS!

DUKE OF YORK'S. S. CC. 836 5122. Evenings 8.0. Saturdays 5.0 and 8.30. FRANCES de la TOUR, DAVID de KEYSER in TOM KEMPINSKI'S DUET FOR ONE. Credit cards only 01-379 6565 or 01-836 9837.

FORTUNE. 01-836 2238. Evenings at 8.00. Sat. 5.00 & 8.00. Open Jan 1. EDWARD DUKE 1980 SWET award winner most promising newcomer. JEEVES TAKES CHARGE by P. G. WODEHOUSE. Owing to popular demand season extended to Jan. 10.

GARRICK. S. CC. 01-836 4601. Evgs. 8.0. Friday and Saturday 5.30 & 8.30. (Red. price Mats. Fri.). Grp. bookings 01-379 6061. WILLIAM FRANKLYN in DEATHTRAP.

THEATRES

GLOBE S. CC 01-437 1592. 01-439 6770. Evgs. 8.0. Sat. 6.0 & 8.45. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061. HINGE & BRACKETT AT THE GLOBE. FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY.

GREENWICH THEATRE. S. CC. 858 7755. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. Sats. 2.30. SHERIDAN'S THE RIVALS.

HAYMARKET. Theatre Royal. 01-930 9832. Evgs. 7.45. Mat. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 4.30 and 8.00. LEONARD ROSSITER, PRUNELLA SCALES in MICHAEL FRAYN'S MAKE AND BREAK. Directed by MICHAEL BLAKEMORE.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6605. S. CC. Evgs. 8. Sat. 5 & 8.15. Wed. Sats. 3. Group sales 01-379 6061. THE STREETS OF LONDON by Dion Boucicault.

JEANNETTA COCHRANE TH. Theobalds Rd., WC1. Daily 2. 6 pm. A musical fairy tale for all the family. Adults £3, Child £2. 30 Dec.-3 Jan. CINDERELLA. Maxwell Davies. Tickets from Royal Opera House in advance or from Jeannetta Cochrane from noon on day of perf.

KINGS HEAD. 226 1916. Dnr 7. Show 8. SHADOW PLAY by Noel Coward & A MAN OF FEELING by Stephen Oliver.

LYRIC. S. CC. 01-437 3869. Evenings 8.00. Wed. 3.00. Sat. 5.30 and 8.30. DINSDALE LANDEN, NICOLA PAGETT in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S TAKING STEPS.

MAYFAIR. 01-629 3037. Until Jan. 10. Daily 10.30, 2.00, 4.00 pm. SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW. — — — BOOK NOW!

MAYFAIR THEATRE. 629 3036. For a season BERTICE READING in Pack Up All Your Cares & Woe. Eves. Mon.-Sat. at 8.30. Book Now. Final performance Sat. 27 Dec.

NATIONAL THEATRE. 'S'. 928 2252. OLIVIER (open stage): Ton't. 7.00 THE LIFE OF GALILEO by Bertolt Brecht trans. by Howard Brenton. Today 11 am & 2 pm HIAWATHA a spectacular Christmas show for 6 to 12-yr.-olds (adults £3, 16 yr. old & under £1.50). Mon. 7.30 SISTERLY FEELINGS. LYTTELTON (proscenium stage): Today 3.00 & 7.45. Mon. 7.45 THE BROWNING VERSION/HARLEQUINADE double-bill by Rattigan. COTTESLOE (small auditorium): Mon. to Sat. 7.15 THE NATIVITY. All tkts. standing £3.50, Students £1.40. Excellent cheap tkts. from 10 am day of perf. all 3 theatres. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933.

OLD VIC. 928 7616 CC 261 1821 S. Ton't. Mon. Tues & Fri at 8.00. Wed & Thurs at 7.30 TRELAWNY OF THE WELLS. Tomor at 7.30 GOOD CLEAN FUN.

OLD VIC. 928 7616 CC 261 1821 S. Today. Mon. Tues & Fri at 1.30 & 4.30. Wed & Thurs at 2.30. TOAD OF TOAD HALL.

PALACE. S. CC. 01-437 6834. RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S OKLAHOMA! Evgs. 7.30. Mats. Wed. & Sat. 3.00. Group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thurs.

PALLADIUM. 01-437 7373. Mats. 2.45 & Evgs. 7.30. JIM DAVIDSON, MOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in DICK WHITTINGTON. Book now Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales Box Office 379 6061.

PHOENIX. CC. S. 836 2294-5. Credit card bookings 836 8611. Evgs. 8.00. Mats. Thur. 3.00. Sats. 4.00. THE BIOGRAPH GIRL. A new musical saluting Hollywood's glorious era of silent pictures. Matinee Today at 4.00. Good Stalls at Doors from £2.50.

PICCADILLY. S. 437 4506. CC bookings 379 6565. Mon.-Thurs. 8. Fri. and Sat. 5 and 8.40. Stalls from £2.90. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in Willy Russell's new comedy EDUCATING RITA. RSC also at Aldwych Warehouse.

PRINCE EDWARD. S. CC. Box Office 437 6877. CC Hotline 439 8499. Grp. bkgs. 379 6061. Eves. 8.00. Mats. Thurs. (Economy price) and Sat. 3.00. EVITA by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. 930 8681. Credit card bookings 930 0846. PAUL DANIELS in IT'S MAGIC. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0. Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. EXTRA MATS. AT 3 pm DEC. 29, 30, 31 and Jan. 1.

QUEEN'S. CC. 01-734 1166. Evenings 8.0. Wed. 3.00. Sat. 4.30 and 8.00. Tom Courtenay, Freddie Jones THE DRESSER. The new play by Ronald Harwood. Directed by Michael Elliott. Last 4 weeks. Must end Jan. 17. Extra Mat. Dec. 31 at 3.00.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR. CC. 01-734 1593. At 7.00, 9.00, 11.00 pm. Opens Suns. PAUL RAYMOND present THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts. New Girls. New Thrills. 23rd sensational year. Fully air conditioned.

ROYAL COURT. S. CC. 730 1745. NOT QUITE JERUSALEM by Paul Kember. Eves. 8. Mon. all seats £2. Extended to Jan. 10.

SAVOY THEATRE. 01-836 8888. JOHN ALDERTON, PAULINE COLLINS in Charles Dyer's comedy RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN. Evgs. Mon.-Thurs. at 8.00. Fri. and Sat. 5.45 and 8.45. Reduced Group bookings 839 3092. Credit card bookings 836 8888.

SHAFTESBURY. Shaftesbury Ave., WC2. CC. Tel. Box Office 01-836 6596. 01-836 4255. TOM CONTI AND GEMMA CRAVEN. THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG. If possible book at least 28 days in advance by post. Send SAE and cheque. Prices: Stalls and Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00. Circle £3.50 (£1 seats at the Box Office). Mon.-Fri. 8.00. Mats. Wed. 3.00. Sats. 5.00 and 8.30. Dec. 27 (both perfs. sold out). Group bookings only 01-839 3092. OAPs. Students £4.00 best seats. Wed. Mats. Credit card bookings only 01-839 4682 or 01-839 7516 (9.30-5.30. Sats. 9.30-4.30).

SHAW. 01-388 1394. Today at 2.30 & 7.30. LAST TWO DAYS. THE PRICE by ARTHUR MILLER. All seats £3.00. Students £1.50. Easy parking.

ST. MARTIN'S. CC 836 1443. Evgs. 8.0. Tues. 2.45. Sats. 5.0 & 8.0. Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP. 29th Year.

STRAND. 01-836 2660. 01-836 4143. Evenings 8.00. Mats. Thurs. 3.00. Sat. 5.30 and 8.30. LONGEST-RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WORLD. NO SEX PLEASE—WE'RE BRITISH. Directed by Allan Davis. Group sales Box Office 379 6061. NO PERF. JAN 1.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 292271. Amex Cards (0789) 297129. Info (0789) 69191. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in ROMEO AND JULIET. Today & 1 Jan. 2.00. "Freshness, ardour & fun." D. Tel. HAMLET Tonight & 29 Dec. 7.30. "Striking." D. Tel. RICHARD II 30 Dec. 7.30 RICHARD III 31 Dec. 7.30. AS YOU LIKE IT 1 Jan. 7.30.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051. Air cond. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT. From 8 o'clock Dining and Dancing 9.30 SUPER REVUE BUBBLY. At 11 ROLF HARRIS. DANCING UNTIL 1 AM.

VAUDEVILLE. S. CC. 01-836 9988. Twice daily 2.45 and 7.45. TIM RICE and ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. REDUCED PRICES FOR CHILDREN.

VICTORIA PALACE. CC. 01-828 4735-6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30. Wed. and Sat. 2.45. Group Bookings 01-739 6061. SPECIAL MATINEES JANUARY 1 at 2.45 ANNIE.

WAREHOUSE. Donmar Theatre, Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. No perf. Tonight. Seats available Mon 29 Dec 7.30 premiere TELEVISION TIMES by Peter Prince. "Stephen Frears's superb company . . . wonderful acting" Times. All seats £3.50, Students £2.00 in advance from Aldwych Box Office.

WEMBLEY ARENA. CC 01-902 1234. A LAVISH NEW PRODUCTION HOLIDAY ON ICE with Robin Cousins Today. Dec. 26, 30, Jan. 1 & 2 at 2.30 & 6.30. Dec. 31 at 2.30. All Sats. at 2, 5 & 8. All Suns. at 2.30 & 7.30. £2.20 to £5.20. CHILDREN HALF PRICE. Spacious car park. Season until Feb. 22.

WESTMINSTER. S. CC. 01-834 0283. Fourth London Season daily at 3.0. Fri. Saturday 3.00 & 6.00. THE GINGERBREAD MAN. The FAMILY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL.

WHITEHALL THEATRE. 01-930 7765. CC Paul Raymond presents FIONA RICHMOND and a Bedful of Beauties in WOT! NO PYJAMAS. Eves. 8.30. Fri., Sat. 6.15 and 8.30. Over 200 perfs. Closed until Jan. 3. Reopens Mon. Jan. 5.

WIMBLEDON TH., The Broadway SW19. From Tomorrow. The Spectacular Panto CINDERELLA starring FRANKIE HOWERD. Bargain Prices £1.25 to £3.75. BOOK NOW on the Panto Hotline 01-946 5212.

WINDMILL. CC. 01-437 6312. Twice nightly at 8.00 and 10.00. Suns. 6.00 and 8.00. Paul Raymond presents RIP OFF! Hotter than ever for 1980. The erotic experience of the modern era. Fifth great year.

WYNDHAM'S. S. 01-836 3028. CC bkg. (379 6565). Mon.-Fri. 8. Sats. 5 & 8.40. Dario Fo's farce ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST.

YOUNG VIC. 928 6363. Sat. 5.00, 8.00 (last perfs.). DRACULA. Bkg. CMTCo's ROMAN INVASION OF RAMSBOTTOM/CAPTAIN STIRRICK. In rep Mon. to 10 Jan.

CINEMAS

ABC 1 & 2 SHAFTESBURY AVE. 836 8861. Sep. Perfs. ALL SEATS BKBLE. 1: FLASH GORDON (A). Wk. & Sun: 2.00, 5.15, 8.15. Late show Tonight 11.15. 2: THE ELEPHANT MAN (AA). Wk. & Sun: 1.30, 4.45, 8.00.

CLASSIC ENTERTAINMENT Teledata 01-200 0200

CLASSIC 1, 2, 3, Haymarket (Piccadilly Circus Tube). 01-839 1527. 1: FLASH GORDON (A). Dolby Stereo. Progs. 12.30, 3.00, 5.30, 8.00. 2: BREAKER MORANT (A). Progs. 6.35, 8.45 only. 3: SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS (U). Progs. 12.45, 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45.

CLASSIC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Oxford St. (01-636 0310. Opp. Tottenham Ct. Rd. Tube. Fully air conditioned. 1: STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). Progs. 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. 2: HOPSCOTCH (AA). Progs. 1.15, 3.30, 5.45, 8.10. 3: SOMEWHERE IN TIME (A). Progs. 1.30, 3.45, 6.00, 8.20. 4: ANY WHICH WAY YOU CAN (AA). Progs. 1.05, 3.25, 5.50, 8.20. 5: AIRPLANE (A). Progs. 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.

CLASSIC, Leicester Square. 01-930 6915. DON'T ANSWER THE PHONE (X). 2.20, 5.40, 9.00. ANGELS HARD AS THEY COME (X). 12.45 (not Sun.), 4.00, 7.20.

CURZON, Curzon Street, W1. 499 3737. Bertrand Tavernier's UNE SEMAINE DES VACANCES (AA). (English sub-titles). Progs. 2.00 (not Sun.), 4.05, 6.20, 8.40.

ODEON HAYMARKET. 930 2738-2771. ROY SCHEIDER in a BOB FOSSE Film ALL THAT JAZZ (X). Sep. Progs. Dly. 1.30 (not Sun.), 4.40, 8.00.

MOTOR CARS

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WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY, Whitechapel High St. (Tube Aldgate East). 01-377 0107. Until 11 Jan. MAX BECKMANN: THE TRIPTYCHS (in association with Arts Council); GEORGE BASELITZ: MODEL FOR A SCULPTURE. Sun-Fri. 11-6. Cl. Sat. Adm. Free.

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division. Re: PILLAR ALUMINIUM LIMITED, PILLAR ENGINEERING LIMITED, R.T.Z. INDUSTRIES LIMITED, R.T.Z. PILLAR LIMITED and The Companies Act 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Orders of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 15th December, 1980 confirming the reductions of the Share Premium Accounts of the above-named Companies were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 18th December, 1980.

Dated the 19th day of December, 1980.
LINKLATERS & PAINES,
Solicitors to the Companies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF CALDERDALE. £1,400,000 Bills issued 24.12.80 at the rate of 13⁵⁄₁₆% to mature 25.3.81. Total applications were £8,800,000 and there were 1,400,000 Bills outstanding.

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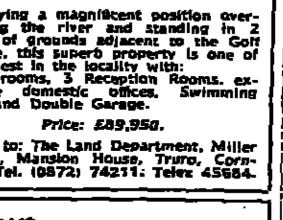

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HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

Holiday Quiz

TODAY is the day for our now traditional holiday quiz. Every year I get letters from readers asking if this year I could make it "more mathematical," "less mathematical," "more literary," "less literary," "more dependent on general knowledge," "less dependent on general knowledge"—in other words, it's impossible to please all the readers all of the time.

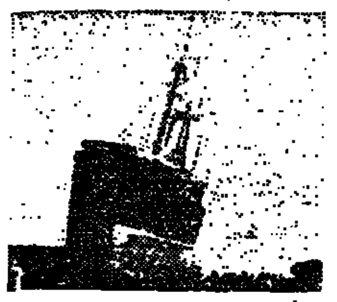
In the hope that this year we will manage to please at least a goodly proportion of readers some of the time I asked Quiz Digest, the *monthly magazine for quiz and puzzle addicts*, to produce a nicely varied set of brain teasers.

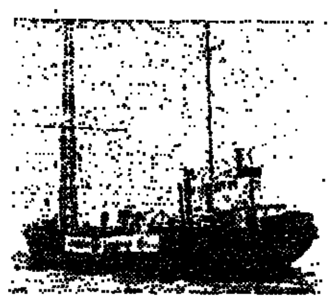
As usual readers should fill in their answers in the space provided on the page itself—old hands will know that it is much better to work out the problems on other bits of paper first and then fill the answers in on the page writing clearly with coloured pen or ballpoint.

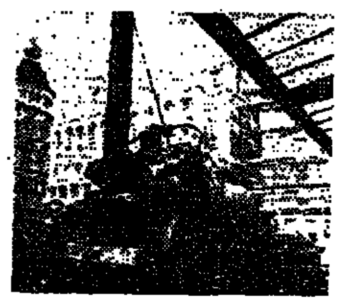
Closing date for entries is Monday, January 12. Answers and results will be published on Saturday, January 17. Mark your envelope "Quiz" and send it to: How To Spend It Page, Financial Times, Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street, London, EC4.

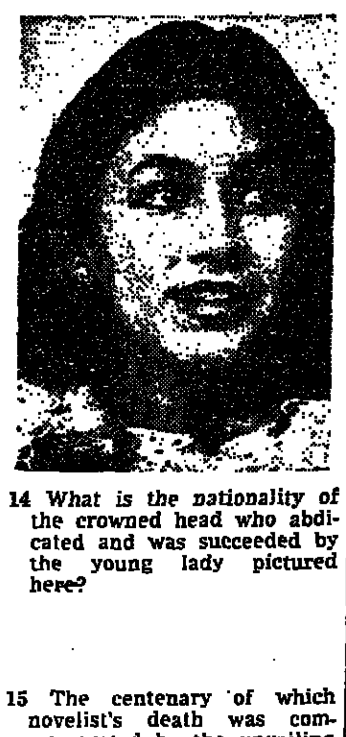
I hope you all have lots of fun doing the quiz and wish you all a happy New Year.

CURRENT AFFAIRS









1 What happened to the *Athina B* the day after she was refloated from Brighton beach?

2 Which well-known Ben started as one of 30 and, to most people's astonishment, finished first of only four?

3 *Who rescued Sim Harris from where?*

4 *What is the name of the ship* from which Radio Caroline was broadcast which sank in heavy seas?

5 Which Allen achieved a top speed of 185 mph, and where?

6 At 8.31 am on May 18, David *Johnston's last recorded* words were "Vancouver, Vancouver. This is it." What was it?

7 *Where did a replica of* Stephenson's *Rocket* appear as part of the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway?

8 Who headed the commission which admitted to a £130m blunder?

9 In March, 123 men died as *the result of a broken leg.* Where were they at the time?

10 How did Vigdis Finnbogadottir make political history in June?

11 What was bought last year by Haringey Council for £1, insured for £31m, and was severely damaged by fire in July?

12 Who was the first Briton since Harold Abrahams in *1924* to win a gold medal for what?

13 *Where did Hercules go on* the run?

14 *What is the nationality of* the crowned head who abdicated and was succeeded by the young lady pictured here?

15 The centenary of which novelist's death was commemorated by the unveiling of a plaque in Poet's Corner?

16 What is the name of the *Gloucestershire mansion* bought by Prince Charles?

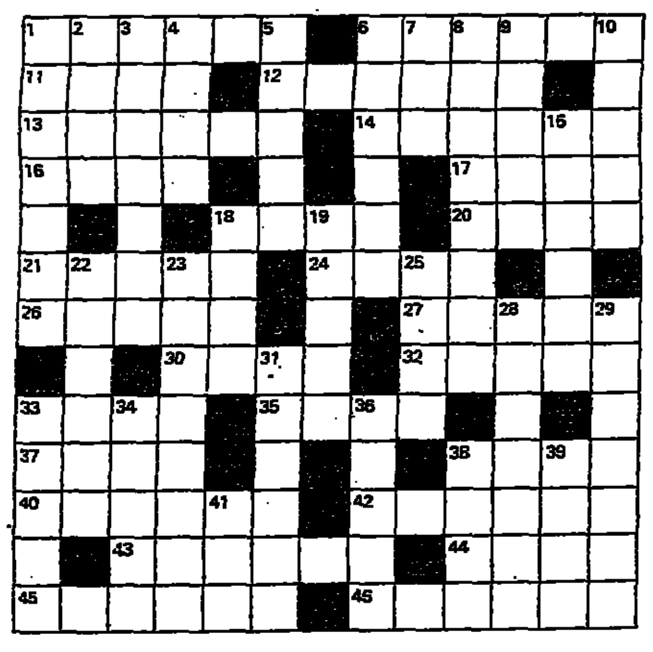
17 Which Rubens picture did the National Gallery buy for £2½m?

18 Why was the death of Josip Broz mourned by millions?

MASTERMIND

Four colours have been coded in a certain sequence, left to right. Five attempts to match the code have been marked below. An "X" indicates a correct colour in the correct position, an "O" indicates a correct colour in the wrong position. Only the six colours given are available, but the code may contain repeated colours. For example, if you guessed " Blue Yellow Yellow Green " and the code was " Yellow Black Red Green," your attempt would be marked "XO"—the "X" indicating that one colour *(green) is* correct and *in the* correct position, the "O" *indicating* that one colour (yellow) is correct but in the wrong position. You now have enough information to break the code.

BLUE	RED	WHITE	BLACK	XO
RED	BLACK	BLUE	WHITE	XO
BLUE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	O
GREEN	BLACK	GREEN	YELLOW	XO
GREEN	BLACK	BLACK	GREEN	XX
?	?	?	?	XXXX



SCROWDROS

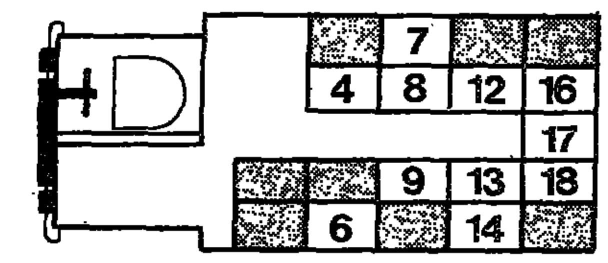
ACROSS

1 Stick-and-ball game (6)
6 Way of standing, attitude (6)
11 Fortune (4)
12 Shoe, or Irish accent (6)
13 Black eye! (6)
14 Swiss territorial division (6)
16 Cooked, finished (4)
17 Dagger handle (4)
18 Back, hindmost part (4)
20 Light red (4)
21 Sorcery (5)
24 Tibetan Buddhist priest (4)
26 Tantalise (5)
27 Motionless, calm (5)
30 Clock face (4)
32 Villain, criminal (5)
33 Bung, stopper (4)
35 Be unsuccessful, in an examination, for instance (4)
37 Underdone (of meat) (4)
38 Without light, gloomy (4)
40 Object aimed at (6)
42 Repeat from memory, narrate (6)
43 Explosive firework (6)
44 Bill of fare (4)
45 Short period of rainfall (6)
46 Biblical doubter (6)

DOWN

1 Young domestic fowl (7)
2 Sharp or eager (4)
3 Disinterred (7)
4 Unctuous, greasy (4)
5 Twenty (5)
6 Momentary look (6)
7 Taxi (3)
8 Embrocation, ointment (8)
9 American stock-farm (5)
10 Sharp end (5)
15 Young cat (6)
18 Man of great wisdom (4)
19 Pepys' book (5)
22 Buccaneer (6)
23 Mirth (8)
25 Young horse (4)
28 Small casual bet (7)
29 Temporarily lost (7)
31 Bogy, fearsome sprite (6)
33 Wrath (5)
34 No longer fresh, out of condition (5)
36 Pointed fencing post (5)
38 Appellation (4)
39 Coal from which gas has been extracted (4)
41 Prolonged conflict (3)

FARES, PLEASE



Five acquaintances boarded a bus at the same bus stop to travel to work. They found eight of the seats already occupied (the shaded squares on the diagram), so sat in five of the remaining empty, numbered seats. *From the* information given below, can you identify who sat in which seat, what occupation each followed, and in which order they alighted from the bus?

The five comprised two secretaries, a shop-assistant, a post*man and a bank cashier.*

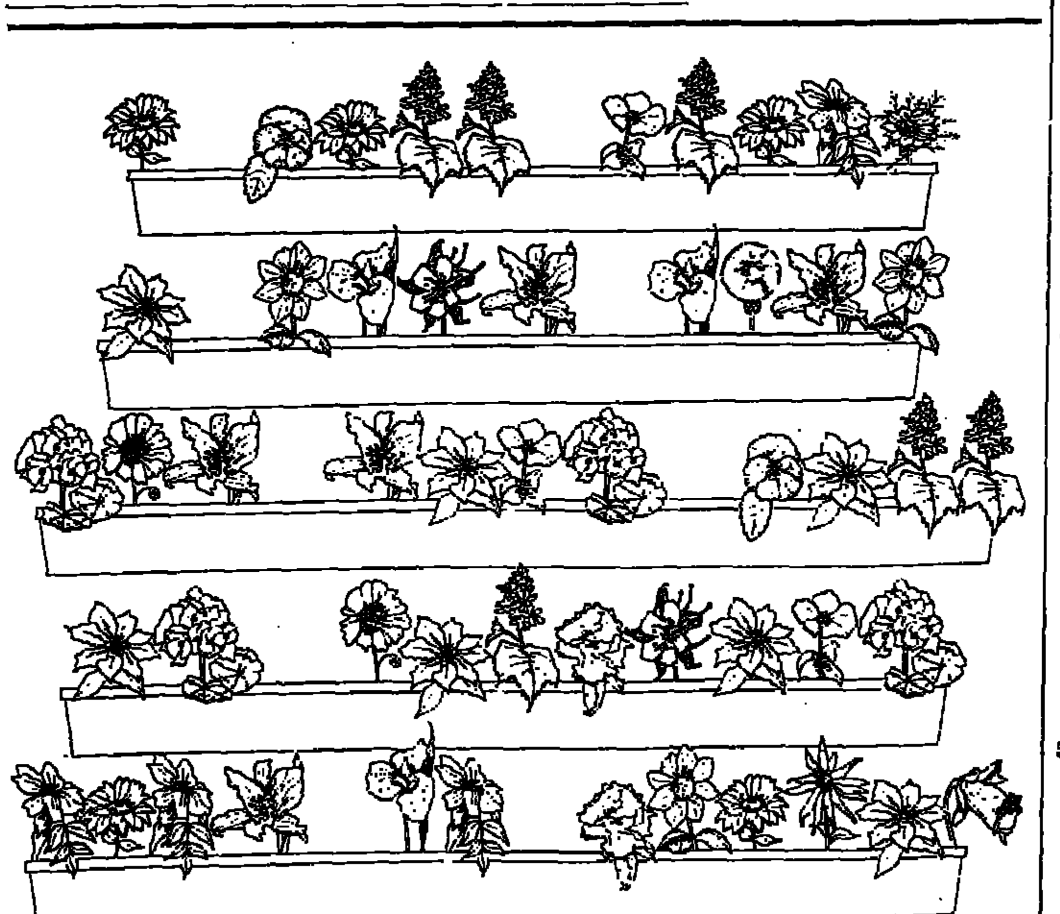
Miss Ellis boarded the bus first and sat nearer the back than any of her companions, none of whom sat directly between her and the front of the bus.

Most of the group from the bus stop sat on the nearside of the bus; one of the two secretaries boarded the bus with her father and sat beside him, and one of this pair was the first to alight.

The shop assistant was a smoker, so sat towards the back in the even-numbered seat two rows behind the bank cashier.

Both the men had left the bus by the time Miss Ellis alighted —Mr. Dodds had to ask a stranger to move so that he *could get out. Miss Allen* was the last of the five to leave the bus, alighting at the stop after the one at which the occupant of seat seven alighted.

	Seat no.	Occupation	Order of alighting
Miss Allen			
Mrs. Bowes			
Mr. Cox			
Mr. Dodds			
Miss Ellis			



SPRING FLOWERS

" Jemmy " Jackson is serving a prolonged sentence in a cell on the top floor of Parkmoor Scrubs. His erstwhile partner in crime, Brian " the Brain " Rabin has rented a flat which is visible from Jackson's cell. He gives details of the plan for an escape bid to the convict in code, by putting a different arrangement of *flowers in his window-box* each day for five days.

Can you help Jackson to decode Rabin's plan?

LITERARY QUIZ

1 Who wrote each of the following lines?

(a) 'Reader, I married him'

(b) 'I say, we will have no more marriages' (c) 'Marry'd *in haste, we may repent at* leisure'

(a)

(b)

(c)

2 What were the names of each of the following?

(a) The Collector (b) The Caretaker (c) The Country Wife

(a)

(b)

(c)

3 Who has killed who or what?

(a) 'With my cross-bow *I shot the* ——'

(b) 'He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back'

(c) '*I kiss'd thee ere I kill'd* thee'

4 Who were the two gentlemen of Verona and the three men in a boat? What are the titles of the *Four Quartets*? And *who was the 'great big mountainous sports girl . . .* full of the strength of five'?

5 Which three 20th century American novels by Hemingway, Faulkner and Steinbeck take their titles from, respectively, John Donne's *Devotions*, *Macbeth* and the *Battle Hymn of the American Republic*?

6 Who created each of the following characters?
(a) Aleksei Vronski (b) Philip Bosinney (c) Sam Spade (d) Pinkie (e) Piggy

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

7 What name connects each of the following pairs?
(a) J. Alfred *Prufrock* and Felix Holt (b) The novelist wife of C. P. Snow and the author of a famous 18th century dictionary (c) Kingsley Amis's 'fortunate' hero and Conrad's 'aristocratic' seafarer

(a)

(b)

(c)

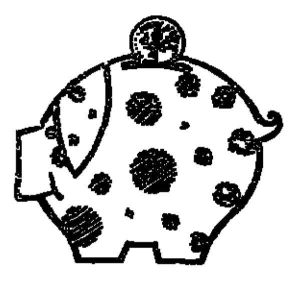
8 Who was the author of each of the following?
(a) *The Man Who Died* (b) *The Man Who Would Be King* (c) *The Man Who Was Thursday*

(a)

(b)

(c)

SAVING GRACE



My daughter Grace has been saving a pound a week towards *her holidays*. She persevered for a few weeks, then, to encourage her further, I matched her weekly pound with another from my own pocket. This *week our joint savings totalled* £70.

How much have I saved if Grace has now saved three times as much as I had saved when Grace had saved as *much* as I have saved now?

TRICKY QUICKIES

1 A farmer takes a stall at three different markets to sell his melons. At the first market he gives one melon in payment for the stall, *then he sells half his remaining* stock. Before leaving he gives one melon to a boy for helping him. The same happens at the other two *markets* and when he finally returns home he has only two melons left. How many did he start with?

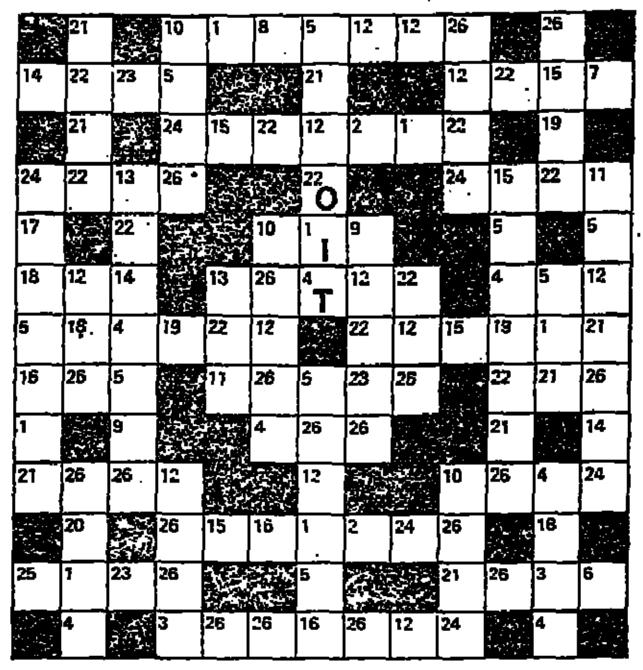
2 Six men, each accompanied by one of their children, occupy only eight seats in a *cinema*. How is this so?

3 A train, travelling at an average speed of 50 mph, is approaching a station where it will make a two-minute stop. Mr. Clark lives two miles from the station and drives there in his car at an average speed of 30 mph. It takes him six minutes to park the car and a further five to reach the platform. The train is 10 miles from the station when he leaves home and is running seven minutes late—will he catch it?

4 A man stands in a line between his cousin and her only uncle, who stands next *to his only sister whose only* child is at the opposite end of the line from her (the child's) maternal grandmother. How many people *stand between the grand*mother and her only grandson, and how many between him and his aunt?

5 For two identical bills, one customer tendered one £1 *note and four identical silver* coins and the other tendered two £1 notes and eight identical silver coins. One of the customers was given *four identical silver coins* in change. What was the amount of each bill?

CROSS REFERENCE



REFERENCE GRID

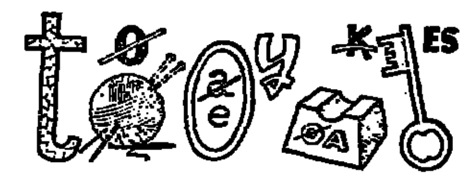
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I			T									

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
								O				

Discover which letter of the alphabet each number in the diagram represents. *We tell you that* 1, 4 and 22 represent "I", "T" and "O" respectively, so repeat these letters wherever 1, 4 and 22 *occur in the diagram*. This should give enough clues to the identity of sufficient other letters to enable you to start guessing at likely words. The finished diagram will represent a normal crossword solution.

REBUS 1

(3,6,5,4)



REBUS 2

(1,5,2,3,3)

ARTS/COLLECTING

A radio year

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

In a year of severe retrenchment the choice of programmes remains remarkably wide for the radio listener. Behind the closed doors in Portland Place a fierce struggle is in progress to retain the separate identities of Radios 3 and 4 (what exactly are those separate identities, by the way?), but to the ordinary listener's ear nothing much has changed.

Few, I would guess, will mourn the passing of the *Just Before Midnight* drama series, nor even the Saturday Afternoon Theatre slot, save the poor authors whose incomes their demise affects.

Meanwhile the drama output as a whole, now largely based in the regions, remains copious. This year we have had some especially good work from Northern Ireland: Bill Morrison's *Maguire* about a likeable rogue on the run in modern Belfast, and William Trevor's distinguished *Beyond the Pale*, a guest-house drama tapering to a fine tragic point that pierced the heart. *The Leveret* by Larry McCoubrey adapted by Matthew Walters is another Irish experience that stays with one. And so does Ronald Mason's production of *At Swim Two Birds* and Robert Cooper's of O'Casey's *Shadow of a Gunman*.

Carey Harrison who had three plays performed is clearly a find. I hope he will be encouraged to broaden his range as a radio playwright. His *The Anatolian Head* was a remarkably disturbing piece. Several of the old hands have been in good form, notably Bernard Kops devising a superb comic role for Maureen Lipmann in *Over The Rainbow*, Jennifer Phillips with *A Very Nuclear Family* and Olwen Wymark with *Find Me*. Elaine Feinstein made a bid to join the ladies who probe the family structure in her emotional play *Echoes*. Meanwhile we had a performance of the first play for radio by a Pope, *Outside The Jeweller's Shop* and, among much else that was revelatory about the Communist world, a full-scale radio reconstruction of *The Prague Trial '79*.

The dividing line between a drama production and a feature programme, parts of which may consist of dramatised material, is a thin one. In this area the programmes have been as diverse as those of drama. To have listened to them has been an education in itself. Whatever else may come under the retrencher's axe one prays that it will not be those excellent features which re-assess the major figures of our culture. (Some of those put out on the World Service are just as good, incidentally, as those on the home networks.) Certainly there is no other radio service which in one year provides its listeners with major studies, often containing completely new material of Bertrand Russell, Samuel Butler, Lytton Strachey, D.H. Lawrence, Proust, Mishima, George Eliot, Stanley Spencer, Jean-Paul Sartre.

The last was in combination with a couple of drama productions of Sartre's best-known plays all mounted to mark the year in which the writer died. A real effort to tie-in programmes between departments has been a gratifying aspect of the year's listening. Another feature programme in which Sartre figured was Richard Mayne's absorbing account of literary and intellectual life in France during the Occupation, *Writing in the Dark* (Radio 3, December 15). This was full of revelations, in the form of interviews with survivors who still remember vividly the extraordinary attitudes of some French literary men during those years.

Only now can an objective, foreign critic like Mr. Mayne look at what was published and assess its literary merit. In doing so he is forced to admit that among those who in varying degrees collaborated with the Germans were some whose books may continue to be read while those of writers who refused to do so are forgotten. This is one of the harsher paradoxes of literature.

The radio year has not been deficient in chat. People like Robert Robinson, Richard Baker, Ned Sherrin, David Jacobs, have shepherded their flocks by night and day. Nor has it in humour: Ivor Cutler and others have seen to that. Radio 2 has kept those of us who are hooked on pre-war music hall and other genres of popular entertainment of an earlier vintage happy in the hands of Hubert Gregg, and others. Barry Carman has made excellent use of the BBC's written archive.

And now I take my leave of the enjoyable weekly task of radio reviewing for the moment. My friend and colleague B. A. Young will be taking over this column in the New Year. Stay tuned.

ANTHONY CURTIS

The cinema's bleak midwinter

BY NIGEL ANDREWS

Hopscotch (AA) Plaza and Classic Oxford Street

Smokey and the Bandit Ride Again (AA) Empire

Somewhere in Time (A) Plaza 2

Christopher Reeve falling in love with Jane Seymour in "Somewhere in Time"

Santa Claus, alas, is AWOL and his reindeer are laid off with redundancy pay during this year's Christmas movie season; a bleak midwinter in which the cinema screen is decked with boughs of folly and the only sounds of wassailing are anguished cries from Wardour Street, and points west, of "Wass' ailing the film industry?"

So far the merriest visitor is *Flash Gordon*, whose praises I sang in a strike-stricken review two weeks ago. If you were not then within range of the FT's Frankfurt printing-press, whence alone it issued, I repeat the encomium. This comic-strip blockbuster is a bouncy Bacchanal of aesthetic overkill, with costumes out of *The Mikado* and set designs in riotously grandiloquent Art Deco. Add the baroquely clotted hiss of Max Von Sydow's villain—Emperor Ming of Mongo—and the blond-locked bonhomie of Sam Jones's Flash, and the result is a high-style movie pantomime. Parents, take your children. Children, take your parents.

Concerning *Hopscotch*, on the other hand, I have naught to offer but blood, toil, tears and lamentation. Walter Matthau, that lugubrious basset-hound with collapsible jowls and a sinal slur of a voice, is called upon to be the irresistible comic force moving the immovable object of this film's spy-caper script. Matthau plays a CIA agent whose enforced retirement from the field—too old for aught but a desk job says his superior Ned Beattie—prompts him to hurtle out of the country in a fit of pique and start strewing his memoirs around the spy networks of the world.

There ensues the spectacle of the CIA top brass huffing and puffing after him, as Matthau plays transcontinental mouse to their overweight cat. Consummate and criminal miscasting. Matthau is not an elusive pimpernel; he's a slow-moving, baggy-trousered sourpuss. Director Ronald Neame compounds this central error with lymphatic pacing of a witless script, and Glenda Jackson ghosts acerbically through in a short, pithy, pointless role as a fellow-spy.

But why speak ill of the dead? This film is a whited corpse in search of a sepulchre. A terrible attack of defensive formula-thinking has overtaken Hollywood recently. The dearth of almost any new-thinking, trail-blazing popular films this year has made American producers re-trench their front-lines and return to the old, the tested and, heaven knows, the tired. Matthau and Jackson were together before in *House Calls*, and Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason, stars of *Smokey and the Bandit Ride Again*, were together before in its money-spinning predecessor.

Smokey and the Bandit are humankind's answer, or try to be, to Wile E. Coyote and the *Road Runner*. Across the Mid-west, trailing clouds of fuel-exhaust, revs "Bandit" Reynolds, while Sheriff Jackie Gleason, sobriquet "Smokey" loses many a police-car in an apoplectic attempt to flag him down and bundle him into court. Also fizzing along the highways are Sally Field, Dom De Luise and an elephant.

This film is the ne plus infra of that once glorious institution, the American road movie. Many moons ago these films, from *Easy Rider* to *The Rain People*, were modern-dress variants on the 18th century picaresque novel — pilgrimages through parti-coloured landscapes meeting heaven-knows-what vagabond voyagers and instilling in their heroes and heroines many a cheerful, bruising lesson in life. They were rough-hewn, zigzagging, rubato movies full of highway humour and byway wisdom.

In *Smokey and the Bandit Ride Again* the chief attribute in the driving-seat is blinkered predictability. Each character is grooved into his own manneristic lane and set to drive at a fixed speed with a fixed expression: Reynolds roguishly droll, Gleason a seething Mr. Potato wired for explosion, Miss Field waif-like and wondering. The slapstick scenes misfire with spectacular consistency, and the dialogue is in toned-down trucker's expletives specially tempered for a "family" audience. The best sequence is that which unfolds behind the final credits: a mirthful anthology of fluffed lines and botched shots culled together from the movie's cutting-room floor. But even here one wonders, such disenchantment does the film sow, if the mis-takes were spontaneous blunders or well-rehearsed corpsing by a company ready to do anything for an easy laugh.

At least *Somewhere in Time* addresses itself to something a little different, if also a little whimsical. A young playwright (Christopher Reeve) is time-whisked back to 1912 to fall in love with a famous young actress (Jane Seymour) with whom "in a previous existence" he had conducted a prematurely abreviated romance. Abbreviated by no less a personage than Christopher Plummer, barking through a trim white beard as the lady's jealous manager who prevails upon her to put career first, love second.

This re-lived romance is set in a giant Marienbad-ish hotel on the shores of Lake Michigan, where Mr. Reeve, no doubt rendered adept at quick-change acts by his Superman role, nips in and out of costume and period with scarcely so much as a "shazam!"

But the film's problem is less the improbable Sci-Fi framing than the soupy Edwardian romance which comes in the middle. While Rachmaninov churns on the soundtrack, the images mark time in an endless rose-tinted idyll while director Jeannot Swarcz (who seemed better attuned to the toothy terrors of his last film, *Jaws 2*) keeps slow-zooming in on his characters as if, with constant peering, life and truth will out from their lacquered faces. They won't, and a promisingly volatile fantasy-plot slowly sets itself into a glazed jelly of saccharine sentiment.

But never fear. Hold your courage high, spare not the champagne, have a Happy New Year and keep wishing the same for the cinema. It owes us one and it seldom keeps its audiences waiting long.

Buying British

BY ANTONY THORNYCROFT

RECENTLY Sotheby's held its first ever sale devoted to British post-Impressionist paintings. It was a great success, totalling £280,500 and with just 7 per cent unsold, a remarkably low figure for an auction of this kind. Sotheby's was wise enough to make "Post-Impressionism" a very flexible term, stretching to include such recent artists as Edward Seago—and it was rewarded with a painting by Seago, of Hong Kong harbour, selling for £13,500, a record for the artist. Even so the auction indicated the way that the major salerooms can take advantage of events like the well received post-Impressionist exhibition at the Royal Academy last winter and ensure that the cultural bandwagon which started there continues to roll, producing extra profits on the way.

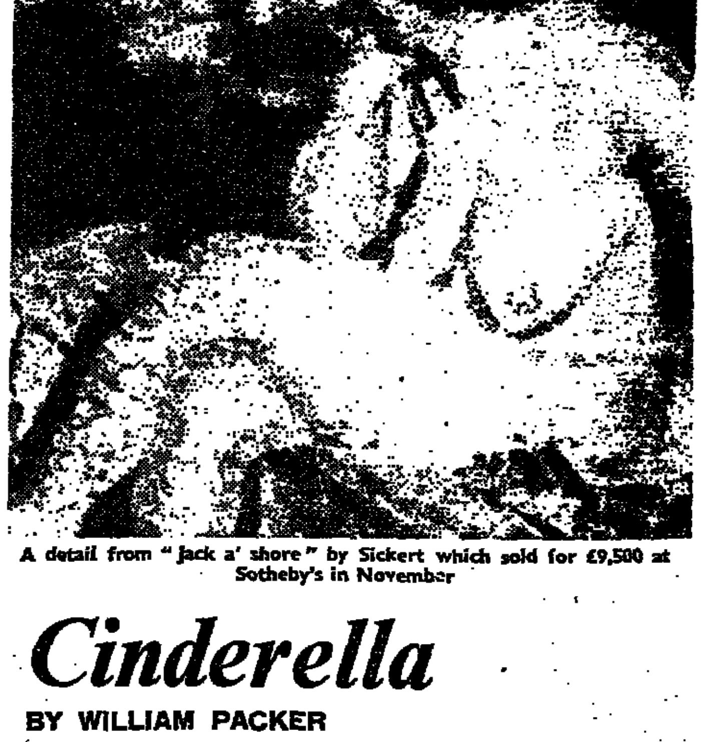
The importance of exhibitions in boosting the reputation of artists was convincingly illustrated in the post-Impressionist sale when a work by Stanley Spencer, "The Goose Run, Cookham," sold for £17,000, an auction record for a Spencer. The current Spencer exhibition at the Royal Academy, and the attendant publicity, has brought about a critical re-appraisal of Spencer who has suddenly become appreciated as one of the country's greatest artists of the century. Janet Green, who looks after modern British art sales at Sotheby's, reckons that a year ago "The Goose Run" might have fetched just £5,000. Works by Spencer, relatively rare in the salerooms in recent years, can be expected to appear in profusion: one is already committed to Sotheby's next major sale of British modern artists in March.

It says much for the basic underlying strength of the art market that interest in modern British art, roughly calculated by the salerooms to stretch from 1880 to post-1945 but not including leading contemporary artists like Bacon and Hockney, grows steadily, with rising price levels to match the mounting demand. For unlike other sectors, where prices are bolstered by international buying, British art, not surprisingly, is bought mainly by British collectors, with a sprinkling of Americans and Europeans. So, despite the recession, there is a growing number of people in this country collecting pictures.

One good reason is that compared with paintings of other periods modern British art of the finest quality is still comparatively cheap. In the last decade there has been a sharp rise in interest, and price, for Victorian paintings; now the later period is attracting supporters. So far only two 20th century paintings by British artists, a Munnings and a Wadsworth, have sold at auction for over £100,000 and fine examples of paintings by such masters as Sickert, John, Clausen, Lavery, Stanhope Forbes, Paul Nash, Gore, Bevan and Gillman can still be acquired for £10,000 or even less. Some British artists, such as Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, and Graham Sutherland are comparatively more expensive because they attract international bidding, but their work often costs less than £20,000. Whistler and Seargent, with their American connections, these days tend to be sold in New York—and for higher prices. But, in the main, pictures by important 20th century artists are inexpensive and many works by lesser known painters, especially among the British Impressionists, can be bought for under £500. Another factor, encouraging collectors, is the accessibility of the art—the paintings speak directly to the buyers.

There had been a hiccup in demand in the early summer, when talk of economic problems depressed sentiment, but in recent months salerooms and dealers report a buoyant market for British paintings. This is reflected in some interesting price comparisons. In November a good painting by Eric Kennington, "The Spy," made £2,800; four years previously it sold for £6,000. (Here again an exhibition of works by Kennington at the Imperial War Museum might have helped to stimulate interest.) In the summer "The horses of St. Mark" by Sickert realised £9,000—four years earlier it sold at auction for £3,800. The gains are not always as great—another Sickert, very much of the Camden Town period "Jack a' Shore" went for £9,500 in November as against £5,200 six years ago. Even so it is not a bad appreciation, especially as art, in theory, is bought as much for the pleasure it gives as the money it makes.

There are, of course, variations within the market. Very obvious paintings, the kind which often find their way into company boardrooms by artists such as Munnings and Montague Dawson, sell very steadily and very well at very high prices, culminating in the £126,000 paid for a Munnings in June. The nudes of Sir William Russell-Flint have international appeal. More interesting is the demand for the more adventurous works, by the British post-Impressionists, and by the Camden Town and the Newlyn Schools. Works by artists like Fred Hall, Walter Langley and Stanhope Forbes are becoming quite rare and are tipped to appreciate—a pretty Fred Hall made £5,200 in November as against a £3,000 estimate. With many dealers, such as Frost and Reed, Anthony D'Offay, Piccadilly, Marlborough and the New Grafton, actively buying and selling modern British artists, and competing at auction with the private collectors, this is an area of art which, against the odds, looks set for yet more price rises.



A detail from "Jack a' shore" by Sickert which sold for £9,500 at Sotheby's in November

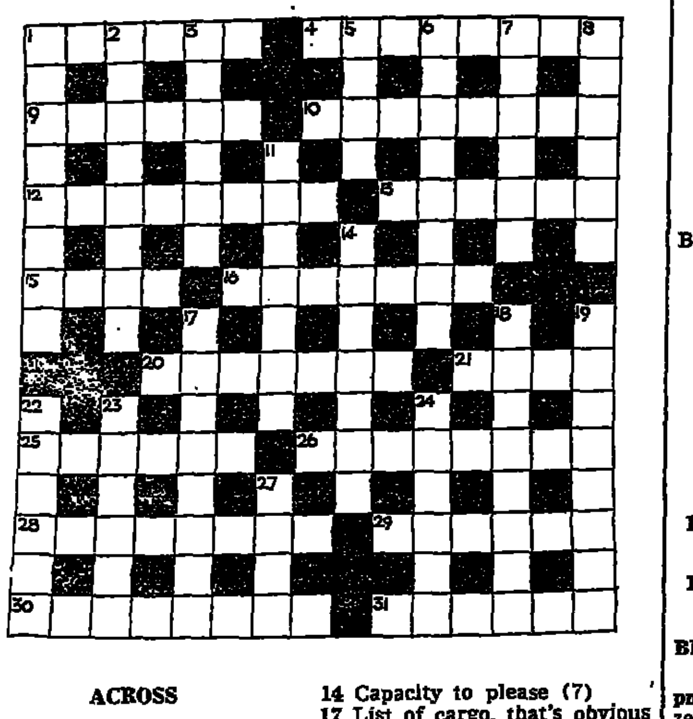
F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,454

A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Lax soldiers fail to hit target (6)
4 Rubbish lad returned within three feet (8)
9 Mean friend to make an attempt (6)
10 Angled and put in a difficult position (8)
12 Reveal record and fail to win (8)
13 Avoid a ladder (6)
15 One who binds a layer (4)
16 Endured bird in bed (7)
20 Charge soldier and girl-friend (7)
21 Release that's priceless (4)
25 Express race (6)
26 Sell cheaper prime piece of beef (8)
28 Growth in fold (8)
29 Give up employment and write one's name again (6)
30 Smooth movement of water at the end of the day (8)
31 Iron-coated hoop in border (6)

DOWN

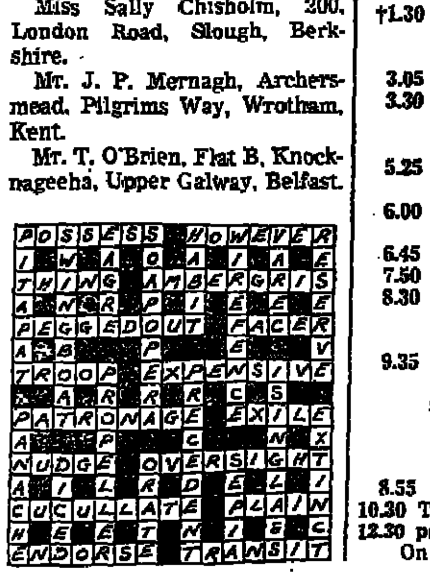
1 Speed needed to make pair tidy (8)
2 Doctor girls with sweet sticky stuff (8)
3 One way to turn and walk (6)
5 Run out of cover (4)
6 Fasten flower in tree (8)
7 Marled arrangement of the skin (6)
8 Line used by musicians and anglers (6)
11 A thoroughfare to travel on horseback (7)
14 Capacity to please (7)
17 List of cargo, that's obvious (8)
18 Disagreement about abrasion (8)
19 Pronounce judgment on a grammatical structure (8)
22 Try to reach a steeple (6)
23 Turned over the Spanish car with nought but a mysterious utterance (6)
24 Coating with superficial refinement (6)
27 Accustomed to being employed (4)

SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 4,451

Miss Sally Chisholm, 200, London Road, Slough, Berkshire.

Mr. J. P. Mernagh, Archersmead, Pilgrims Way, Wrotham, Kent.

Mr. T. O'Brien, Flat B, Knocknageeha, Upper Galway, Belfast.



TV/Radio

BBC 1

† Indicates programme in black and white

8.55 am Play Chess. 9.05 Football Association Coaching. Tactics, Skills. 9.30 Multi-coloured Swap Shop.
12.15 pm Grandstand: Football Focus (12.20). Synchronised Swimming (12.50, 1.25) from Coventry: The Mazda Cars International. Racing from Wetherby (1.05, 1.35 and 2.15). Racing from Leopardstown (1.55): 2.05 The Sweeps Hurdle. 2.35 The Record Breakers. 3.25 The Woodhouse World of Animals with Barbara Woodhouse. 4.05 Emu's Magical Music Show, starring Rod Hull and Emu. 4.40 Today's Sport: Frank Bough introduces a round-up of the day's sports news.
5.05 Christmas Cruise with Basil Brush.
5.40 News.
5.50 Tom and Jerry (London only).
6.00 It's a Christmas Knockout from Liège.
7.00 "Bugsy Malone": feature film.
8.30 The Dick Emery Christmas Show.
9.20 News and Sport.
9.35 "On Approval," by Frederick Lonsdale, starring Penelope Keith.
11.05 Men v Women International Golf Challenge from Woburn.
11.55 Weather.

All Regional programmes as BBC-1 except as follows:

BBC Cymru / Wales—5.50-6.00 pm Sports News Wales. 6.00 Citizen Smith. 6.30 The Dawson Watch. 11.55 News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—5.50-6.00 pm Scoreboard. 11.55 News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—5.50-6.00 pm Northern Ireland News and Sport. 11.55 News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

England—5.50-6.00 pm East (Norwich): North (Leeds); North East (Newcastle): North West (Manchester); Midlands (Birmingham); West (Bristol); South (Southampton); South West (Plymouth) only. Saturday spotlight.

BBC 2

†1.30 pm Fred Astaire in "You Were Never Lovelier," with Rita Hayworth.
3.05 Play Away.
3.30 Fred Astaire in "Silk Stockings," with Cyd Charisse.
5.25 Paradise Lost in Chapeltown, Leeds.
6.00 The Brute Force Challenger: Computer Chess.
6.45 News and Sport.
7.50 Sky with Rhythm on 2.
8.30 A Prisoner in the Caucasus, based on a short story by Tolstoy.
9.35 Great American Picture Show: "The Godfather," starring Marlon Brando.

LONDON

8.55 am Marvel Superheroes.
10.30 Tiswas.
12.30 pm World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball. 1.00 International Sports Special: Swimming, from Antibes, France. 1.15 News. 1.20 The ITV Seven from Kempton and Newcastle: 1.30, 1.45, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45 and 3.00. 3.10 International Sports Special (part two): Ice Hockey from Moscow. 3.50 Half-time Soccer Round-up. 4.00 Wrestling from Leicester. 4.50 Results Service.
5.05 News.
5.20 Worzel's Christmas Special.
6.20 Search for a Star.
7.10 The Prince And The Pauper, starring Oliver Reed.
9.15 The Professionals.
10.15 News from ITN.
10.30 The Big Match.
11.30 Stanley Baxter's Big Picture Show.
12.30 am It's Christmas! . . . In Italy.

All IBA regions as London, except at the following times:

ANGLIA

9.30 am The Beachcombers. 9.55 Rocket Robin Hood. 10.15 Mystery Island. 12.30 am A Carol for Christmastide.

ATV

9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.35 Babylon. 10.00 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 11.30 pm Stanley Baxter Season.

BORDER

9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.35 Babylon. 10.00 Alright Now. 5.05 pm News and Border Weather. 5.20 A Cup 'O Tea 'An a Elice 'O Cake. 10.15 News and Border Weather. 10.30 Shoot.

CHANNEL

5.05 pm News followed by Channel Islands Weather. 5.17 Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 10.15 News followed by Channel Islands Weather. 11.30 The Nolan Sisters.

GRAMPIAN

9.30 am Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer. 10.00 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 10.30 pm Scotsport. 12.30 am Reflections.

GRANADA

9.15 am Doctor! 9.40 Babylon. 10.05 Batman. 12.30 am Twist in the Tale.

HTV

9.10 am Babylon. 9.35 Doctor! 10.00 The Undersea Adventures of Captain Nemo. 10.05 Batman. 5.18 pm HTV News. 11.28 HTV Reports Sports Headlines. 12.30 am A Carol for Christmas.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV West except:— 5.20-5.50 pm Ras Sgwar. 5.50-6.20 Mork and Mindy.

SCOTTISH

9.10 am Simply Sewing. 9.35 Fantasy Island. †10.30 pm Scotsport. †11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Stanley Baxter's Christmas Box.

SOUTHERN

9.00 am Sesame Street. 10.00 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 10.27 Regional Weather Forecast. 11.30 pm Southern News. 11.35 Lou Grant. 12.30 am Weather followed by Father's Christmas.

TYNE TEES

9.00 am Hanna Barbera Cartoon Special. 9.45 Daredevils. 10.40 "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea," starring Walter Pidgeon. 5.15 pm North East News. 10.30 Shoot! 12.30 am Countryside Christian.

ULSTER

9.15 am Doctor! 9.40 Play Squash Jonah's Way. 10.05 Spiderman. 10.30 Sesame Street. 11.30 Larry the Lamb. 11.40 Tarzan. 5.13 pm Ulster News. 5.15 Cartoon. 10.29 Ulster Weather. 11.30 WKRP in Cincinnati. 12.00 News at Bedtime.

WESTWARD

9.30 am Look and See. 9.35 Mork and Mindy. 10.25 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.27 pm Westward News. 5.17 Westward News and Scoreline. 11.30 The Entertainers. 11.55 Soldiers of the King. 12.05 am West Country Weather and Shipping Forecast.

YORKSHIRE

9.00 am Simply Sewing. 9.25 Spiderman. 9.40 240-Robert. 10.30 pm The Big Game.

RADIO 1

(s) Stereophonic broadcast.
‡ Medium wave only.

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.03 Playground. 8.00 Tony Blackburn with Junior Choice. 10.00 Steve Wright. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste (s). 2.00 A King in New York (s). 2.05 Paul Gambaccini (s) including 3.00 U.S. Top 30. 4.00 Rock on Saturday (s) including 6.31 In Concert featuring Joe Jackson.

RADIO 2

5.00 am News Summary. 5.02 Tom Edwards (s) including 8.03 Racing Bulletin. 8.06 David Jacobs (s) with Star Sounds. 10.02 Pete Murray's Saturday Show (s). 1.02 pm It's A Funny Business. 1.30 Sport On 2. League Football (1.45, 2.15, 2.40, 3.45, 3.55, 4.42, 5.00, 5.45, 5.50). Test Cricket (1.30, 2.15, 5.30) reports from Melbourne on the second day of the Third Test between Australia and New Zealand. Kempton Racing (1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 4.50, 5.45) Ladbroke Handicap Chase and news from The Curragh on The Irish Sweeps Hurdle. 5.00 Sports Report including 5.00 Classified Football Results. 5.25 Rugby/Cricket. 5.45 Racing Results and Classified Football. 6.03 Pick of the Sporting Year. 7.02 Beat The Record. 7.30 Big Band Special (s). 8.02 Saturday Night Is Gala Night (s) A tribute to Noel Coward (Part 2). 9.02 Geoff Love in Concert (s). 10.02 Nordring Rendezvous (s) from Belgium. 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Bob Kilbey (s) with The Late Show, including 12.00 am Midnight Newsroom. 2.02-5.00 You and The Night and The Music (s).

RADIO 3

7.55 am Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 Aubade (s) A selection of seasonally snowy music by Chaikovsky, Debussy, Leopold Mozart, Liszt, Rimsky-Korsakov. 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (s). 10.15 Stereo Release (s) Grieg, Mussorgsky orch. Ravel. 11.15 Bandstand (s). 11.45 I Know What I Like (s): The Bishop of Woolwich, The Rt. Rev. Michael Marshall. 1.00 pm News. 1.05 Early Music Forum (s) The Rouen Officium Pastorum. 2.00 Erich Leinsdorf (s) Concert (Part 1): Weber, Prokofiev. 2.45 Interval Reading. 2.50 Concert (Part 2): Schumann. 3.25 Just One Of Those Things (s) Song recital: Brahms, Bizet, Schubert, Granados, Fauré, Mozart, Poulenc, Debussy and Wolf, and arrangements of Strachey's "These foolish things" and Cole Porter's "Just one of those things." 4.05 Schubert and Wolf (s) String Quartet recital. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests (s). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.45 Beethoven (s) A performance of the Six Variations Op. 34 for piano. 7.00 The Operas of Richard Strauss (s) "Intermezzo" (Act 1). 8.35 Sweet Wine Of Youth. 8.50 Intermezzo (s) (Act 2). 10.00 Propellers (s) Play by John Fletcher. 10.35 Bach's First Christmas at Leipzig (s) A performance of the Cantata No. 64. 11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 Schubert (s) Piano music.

RADIO 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast. 6.30 News. 6.32 Light Music Society Orchestra (s): Ernest Tomlinson Suite of English Folk Dances. 6.50 Yours Faithfully. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.50 It's a Bargain. 7.55 Weather. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sport on 4. 8.45 Today's Papers. 8.50 Breakaway, including 9.00-9.05 News. 9.50 News Stand. 10.05 At The Third Stroke . . . 100 Years of GMT. 10.30 Daily Service (s). 10.45 Pick Of The Year (s) 11.35 From our own Correspondent. 12.00 pm News. 12.02 Money Box. 12.27 The News Quiz of the year (s) (part 1). 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.05 Wildlife. 2.30 Middlemarch (s), by George Eliot. 3.25 The Greatest Englishman (s), by Paul Hyland a portrait of St. Boniface of Crediton. 4.10 Profile. 4.30 A Second Touché of Thurber (s) adapted from Thurber writings. 5.00 A Prophet at the Microphone: H. G. Wells and the BBC Script, by Bery Carman. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.15 Desert Island Discs. 6.55 Sporting Reflections: Cliff Morgan in conversation with Tony O'Reilly. 7.35 Richard Baker with records (s). 8.30 Saturday Night Theatre (s): "The Shaugraun," by Dion Boucicault. 10.00 News. 10.15 It's Still Great Britain: BBC correspondents at home and abroad. 11.00 Lighten our Darkness. 11.15 A Small Country Living. 11.45 The Armchair Traveller: Folk music of the world. 12.00 am News and Weather Forecast. 12.15-12.23 Shipping Forecast.

London Broadcasting

7.32 am Good Fishing. 8.00 News and Weather. 8.15 Weekend What's On. 8.30 Bob Powel's London Country. 10.03 Stuart Colman's Echoes. 11.30 The Robbie Vincent Show. 2.00 pm Time Off. 3.00 The Services Folk Competition. 4.00-8.45 am Join Radio 2.

BBC Radio London

7.00 am AM—Des Fahy. 10.00 Jellybone. 12.00 pm LBC Reports—Hugh Williams. 1.00 Sportswatch. 6.00 LBC Reports. 7.00 Get Mala. 8.00 Network—"The Crazy Christmas Show" from Piccadilly Radio. 9.00 The London view—Bob Holness and Roald Dahl. 10.00 Nightline. 1.00 am Night Extra. 4.00 Hayes on Sunday. 4.30 Decision Makers. 5.00 Morning Music.

Capital Radio

6.00 am John Sach's Breakfast Show. 9.00 The Countdown with Peter Young. 12.00 Dave Cash's Cash Country. 2.00 pm Duncan Johnson's Afternoon Delight. 6.00 Greg Edward's Soul Spectrum. 8.00 Nicky Home's Six of the Best. 11 David Rodigan's Roots Rockers.

Imperial Tobacco Portrait Award winner named

The Imperial Tobacco Portrait Award has proved a great success. It is designed to encourage the painting of portraits by young artists, with a £4,000 prize for the winner, and is organised in conjunction with the National Portrait Gallery, which will hang a commissioned painting by the winner, valued at £3,000, in its contemporary portrait collection.

The winner was Margaret Foreman for her portrait of Sir Richard Southern, president of St. John's College, Oxford. Second was Julia Sorrell for a self portrait and third John Bain for a portrait of his wife. Fifty-four of the 300 entries will be on show from today at the National Portrait Gallery and represent an encouragingly fine exhibition of the state of contemporary portrait painting. The show will be reviewed by William Packer

'The Sound of Music' to be revived

A revival of *The Sound of Music* will open at the Apollo Theatre, Victoria, next August starring Petula Clark in the role made famous by Julie Andrews. To be produced by Ross Taylor its budget of £750,000 makes it the most costly show ever mounted in the West End. Petula Clark has been booked for six months with the option of another six. This will be the first major production of *The Sound of Music* for 14 years.

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 351

1 . . . N-N5! (N-R2 or N-Q5 allow P-N4); 2 BxP, N-R7! and N-B6 mate.

Solution to Problem No. 351

1 B-B6 (waiting). B moves; 2 Q-KR8, or if N(R6) moves; 2 B-B2, or if R-N2; 2 R-B4, or if N-N2; 2 R-K4, or if P-Q4; 2 B-K5. Traps are 1 B-R2, R-N2 or 1 B-QB4, N-N2 or 1 B-B7, B-K3 or 1 B-K4, N-B5 or 1 B-B3, N-N2 or 1 N-B4, R-N7.

Cinderella

BY WILLIAM PACKER

As with a great many people, I suppose, my very first experience of the theatre was the pantomime, over which the local rep took infinite pains. But you might say that I was spoilt, for, a little older, year after year at that same theatre, I enlisted as a temporary stage-hand for the Christmas holidays, and so came to know directly all the excitement of the production, a potent brew of paint, powder, dust and sweat, the frenetic, intimate bustle in the dark of the wings, and the sudden hot glare of the lights.

Which means of course that any modern offering must be set against my own imperfect recollection of childish wonder and youthful delight — unfair competition indeed.

This year it is Cinderella at the Wimbledon Theatre, which is a genial, stylish and at times, courtesy of Frankie Howerd, hilariously vulgar treat. By the end of this Christmas week the inevitable technical hitches and snags will all be sorted out, I know (though the fairy godmother's collision with the scenery was surely no accident, but inspiration) and with the comic business tightened up, the whole thing will sail along.

But the principal boys are not what they were, once such dashing figures in fishnet tights and high heels, and even the ugly sisters have gone modern in their extravagance, no longer the rivals to the Red Queen that I remember. It does seem odd to me that the wonderful conventions that pantomime had evolved for itself should now be so generally and unnecessarily written off.

But there it is. On Monday night David Bexon, whose Prince Charming definitely has something of Prinny about him, and Les Ames and Dandini, were in extremely good voice, and as good a humour. Veronica Page is all a Cinderella should be and indeed all the company does its stuff admirably, from kind old Baron Hardup (Henry McGee) and the wicked, and finally immortal, landlord (David Davenport), to the small but most decorative and effective chorus. It is all very prettily set, and the transformation scene, with real ponies, is a lovely surprise.

Frankie Howerd is the perfect Buttons, a comic genius who at times simply being his lugubrious self had us all, young and old, gasping with laughter. My youngest daughter, four years old, was riveted throughout, was certain that Cinderella had married the wrong man, and refused to leave when it all ended.

LEISURE

The streets are paved with gold

TRAVEL

FEONA McKEWAN

ONE OF the first things to strike a Londoner—returning after an absence of several years—is the sheer energy of the place. Discovering its diverting nooks and crannies is also a constant pleasure.

First stop—the street markets, where you quickly catch the infectious spirit of local London. Many hours can be happily browsed away over any commodity you fancy. From cloth to antiques, china to the freshest fruit in the land, there's not much that can't be bought on the pavements—and many of *the markets are open at* weekends.

The East End is a fruitful hunting ground—and to watch the Cockney traders, an entertainment in itself. If you can face the early rise on Sunday mornings, there's **Petticoat Lane**, Middlesex Street, E1 (stalls set up 7.30 am, open 9 am), with its household goods and clothing. Antique bargain-hunters should try **New Caledonian Market** in Bermondsey Square, SE1 (Fridays only) which although primarily a dealers' den, welcomes private collectors and casual visitors too. Again, early rising is a priority as much of the dealing occurs between 5 am and 7 am (when it officially opens). Though its heyday may be over, Notting Hill Gate's **Portobello Market** in W11 (Saturdays are best) continues to attract a colourful crowd of buyers and sellers sifting through its 2,000 or so stalls, with their compulsive mix of bric-a-brac, antique and junk.

The City offers **Leadenhall Market** in Gracechurch Street, EC3 (Monday to Friday) with its extravagant Victorian architecture, suggesting grander times gone by, in contrast to the brisk trade beneath, of meat, fish, vegetables and plants. There are many cafés and pubs nearby.

A favourite of mine is **Camden Lock** in Chalk Farm Road, NW1, which is open both Saturdays and Sundays and well worth the trek. Here you find an interesting mix—cheap and cheerful badges for a few pence alongside handmade picture sweaters, stained glass, delicious home-made food and covetable early French stoves.

It's not possible to talk of London markets without lauding newly opened and imaginatively restored **Covent Garden Central Market**. A triumph for conservationists, t his150-year-old building site of the famous fruit and vegetable market is now a must for shoppers. Most important it is open six days a week until 8 pm.

Still on the browsers' beat, another popular Saturday stop-over (open through the week and until noon on Saturday) is the Silver Vaults, off Chancery Lane, WC2, with more than 30 *underground "cubby holes"* crammed to the seams with silver, both antique and modern.

National galleries and museums throughout the city are generally free or nearly so and many open on Sundays. It's tempting to overlook the smaller lesser known collections but there is a feast of fascinating displays around—the Museum of Mankind, at 6, *Burlington Gardens*, W1, houses some wonderful art and objets from tribal and village societies around the world (open Monday to Saturday 10 am to 5 pm); the Pollock Toy Museum, Scala Street, W1, focuses on dolls, toy theatres, teddy bears, board games (closed Sundays) and the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2, houses a series of period rooms, 16th to 20th century, in former almshouses. Finally the Courtauld Institute in Woburn Square, WC1, is well worth a visit for its fine collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist art (open weekends).

If views are what you are after, there is none finer than from the river. Boats leave Westminster and Charing Cross Piers for Greenwich and the Tower as well as from Tower Pier for Westminster (adults £1.30 return, children 75p) and Greenwich (adults return £1.90, children £1) all the year round. Ring London Tourist Board Riverboat Information Service (01-730 4812) for details. A special two hour circular cruise including lunch leaves Westminster Pier at 12.45 a.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays (adults £7.30 children *£4.70 inclusive), but it is advis*able to book in advance (01-839 2349).

The newly restored St. Katharine Dock (nearest tube, Tower Hill) offers an alternative view of London. Designed by the emminent 19th-century engineer, Thomas Telford, this collection of warehouses and basins is now a picturesque yachting marina. Look out for the floating museum of unusual water craft.

Some 76 hotels in Inner London (City, Kensington, Bayswater, West End and so on) offer special weekend breaks in an effort to entime much-wanted guests and make the winter less lean.

The hotels are listed in "Let's Go," published by the English Tourist Board. British Rail has recently introduced its Golden Breather weekend scheme which gives a choice of 10 hotels from £28 (including travel from the Home Counties) for two nights' accommodation per person in a twin room with VAT, sefvice and English breakfast. Reductions for young children.

Similarly a number of hotel groups and tour operators have grouped together to offer complete weekend packages to London including rail and sometimes air fares. Theatre tickets can be booked in advance on several of the schemes. Embassy Hotels go one stage further and offer theatre weekends with seats booked. With children in mind Holiday Inns offer special entertainment including swimming for youngsters.

Further information: "Let's Go," published by English Tourist Board from Tourist *Information Centres* "London Is . . . Weekends" leaflet published by London Tourist Board, 35p (plus 12p p+p) from the Sales Department, 26, Grosvenor Gardens, SW1. An excellent guidebook, The St. Michael/AA Book of London, £3.75, from Marks and Spencer branches.

Vexed question of golfer 1980

GOLF

BEN WRIGHT

ANY REVIEW of any season must be controversial, in that opinions are rarely unanimous about who shall be named Golfer of the Year.

The golfing year 1980 was, *and will be fiercely* debated in both Europe and America, and in the latter only amateur champion Hal Sutton's complete domination of the amateur ranks, not to speak of his world dominance as demonstrated so forcibly in America's Eisenhower Trophy World Team championship triumph at Pinehurst, was clearcut—no, awesome.

But would *Tom Watson or* Jack Nicklaus have been your choice among the men, leading money winner Beth Daniel or U.S. Open champion Amy Alcott among the women? And would Sandy Lyle or Greg Norman, Lyle having passed Norman in the last round of the final event, the Dunlop Masters, to top the European Order of Merit by just £277.38—in totals of over £43,000—be your idea *of the European* Golfer of the Year?

Lyle thus won the Vardon Trophy, but since then Norman won the Suntory World Matchplay Championship by beating Lyle in the final, and grabbed the Australian Open title for the first time, having taken three putts on the final green to lose it the previous year to compatriot Jack Newton.

For that matter would you *vote for Roberto de Vicenzo* (U.S. Senior Open champion) or Arnold Palmer (PGA National Senior champion in the U.S.) as Senior Golfer of the Year?

By the way, no British or Irish amateur man or woman can qualify for any award from me until our Walker or Curtis Cup team can win its respective trophy.

Two happenings, the five strokes victory of 23-year-old Bernhard Langer in the Dunlop Masters tournament, and Gary Hallberg's emergence as "Rookie of the Year" in the U.S., stamped the former as the best golfer ever to come out of Germany, while Hallberg, son of a Swedish construction engineer from Chicago, may just be the best prospect America has unearthed since Nicklaus, and I include Watson.

Not only is Hallberg a quite brilliant and effortless strokemaker, this slim, 22-year-old has a magical ability to communicate with his audience that still seems to elude Watson at times. But he also has the golfing mind of a Nicklaus—a 40-year-old head on youthful shoulders.

Gary won $11,600 in his first tournament as a professional in mid-July, but this did not count towards his 1980 total of $64,244 and 63rd place on the money list because it was only by winning such an amount that he earned his USPGA Tour player's card—the minimum required being $8,000.

Hallberg missed exemption from Monday pre-qualifying—granted to the top 60 money winners—in spite of finishing second to Canadian Dan Hall*dorson in the Tour's final* event, the Pensacola Open.

After that he was second to Lee Trevino in the Lancome Trophy in Paris, third to him in the Spanish invitational in Barcelona, won the Argentine Open in Buenos Aires, and should have won the Air New Zealand-Shell Open

I have rarely seen anything more convincing than the scores of 67, 66 and 65 with which Hallberg opened up a two shot lead at blustery, rainswept Titirangi. But an impacted wisdom tooth, earache and "strep" throat gave him no sleep. Chock full of pain-killing drugs, he was at times unable fully to co-ordinate.

So on the cold final afternoon, he slumped to 75, and still finished fifth. Be sure to watch Hallberg play as soon as you get the chance. He is a tremendous prospect, the only amateur in history four times an All-American.

To return to controversy, Watson was voted Golfer of the *Year, but my vote went to Nick*laus for winning two major championships, the U.S. Open and PGA, to Watson's one, the Open at Muirfield.

Watson won six American tournaments including the World Series and the record sum of $530,808. But what is money in golf's super league? Trevino even took the Vardon Trophy away from Watson with the lowest stroke average for 30 years. *So Nicklaus is No. 1 for* me.

It was a vintage year on the American LPGA Tour. Four golfers, Daniel, Donna Caponi Young, Alcott and Nancy Lopez-Melton—the latter took away another $36,000 last weekend by helping Curtis Strange to triumph in the J. C. Penney Mixed Team Classic—all won more than $200,000, a feat never before accomplished by a woman.

But although Daniel, Rookie of the Year in 1979, topped the money list with $231,000-plus, Alcott, who was third on the money list, won the U.S. Women's open by a devastating nine strokes, and also had the lowest stroke average to win the Vare Trophy—71.51 to Daniel's 71.59.

Only once before, in 1978, had two players finished with an average per round of less than 72 shots, but this year there were six, Joanne Carner and Pat Bradley being the other two. Alcott is my Woman Golfer of the Year.

This brings us to the European tour and the Seniors, and I find it almost impossible to separate Lyle and Norman in the former. The big, blond Australian Norman won the French and Scandinavian Enterprises Opens besides those titles already mentioned, Lyle only the Corals Welsh Classic.

Norman also achieved 10 top ten places to *Lyle's 11* in open events on the European tour, so he would have to get my vote as Europe's number one, if only on the score of titles won.

Because Palmer has finally decided, in spite of his victory in the Canadian PGA championship, to concentrate on the Seniors tour, he has to receive my vote rather than the equally charismatic de Vicenzo. In winning the PGA National Seniors title in America Palmer was beating a far superior field to that conquered by the genial Argentinian — mainly because the USGA, in their doubtful wisdom—chose to place a five years older minimum age limit for their inaugural championship than the universally adopted 50 years of every other senior event of consequence.

The USGA will move into line in 1981, and should reap a rich reward, since in addition to Palmer, Don January, Miller Barber, Gene Littler, Billy Casper Bob Goalby and Gardner Dickinson, among others will be eligible.

Now, too, however Lyle and Norman, among others in Europe, will try to make their fame and fortune in America, where it will be fascinating to watch their progress in 1981.

A touch of warmth in the winter

GARDENING

ARTHUR HELLYER

ONE OF the most cheerful sights at the moment from my bathroom window is a young golden variegated elaeagnus seen against the background of a dark green fir tree, a daily reminder as I shave of the value of golden leaved and golden variegated evergreens in winter.

The list of good and hardy kinds is not so long that any varieties can be neglected. I would certainly put this particular elaeagnus (it is *E. pungens maculata*) high on the list for its central irregular blotch of yellow is more conspicuous than the outer band of yellow which distinguishes it from its rival *E. pungens aurea*. But it is a variable shrub, some forms more yellow than others and I suspect that this depends a good deal on the care with which propagators collect their cuttings. Taken from good, well variegated stems it is likely they will give equally good plants but taken from parts of a bush that are tending to *revert to normal green the* plants will be similarly renegade.

So this is a shrub to select personally at nursery or garden centre, picking out plants with big, magnificently coloured leaves. The plant is easy to grow and hardy, able to thrive in sun or partial shade though the best golden colour is developed when the light is good.

That is also true of all the yellow variegated ivies, indeed most are useless in the shade, only Goldheart managing to keep most of its good colour but even this is better on a sunny wall. This limitation does not apply to white and cream variegations so that ivies such as Glacier, Marginata Elegantissima, Gloire de Marengo and the incomparable Dentata Variegata will perform as well in the shade as in the sun. But though silver is welcome it is not as heart warming as gold.

Next to the elaeagnus I reckon the richest winter leaf colour comes from the common golden privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium aureum*. Some may object that it is only partially evergreen and I would agree that it is not fully reli*able in all places and seasons.* Yet I have never seen it lose many of its leaves in town gardens, where it always grows well, nor have I ever seen it completely defoliated even in the coldest country places. Like the elaeagnus its colour is not constant and is prone to deteriorate or even disappear if care is not taken in choosing good propagating material. But at its best it is magnificent. Many times, when motoring in winter I have pulled up short to discover what golden flower was braving the weather only to find that my eye had been deceived by a golden privet.

There are some magnificent yellow variegated hollies and with these the variegation can become so extreme that some stems have leaves that are yellow all over. I have occa*sionally been tempted to propa*gate from these in the hope of getting an all-yellow bush but, of course, this is a foolish notion since, deprived of all chlorophyl, the plant would be unable to manufacture any food and would soon die of starvation. All variegated plants are less vigorous than their all-green counterparts and the greater the degree of yellowing or whitening the more marked this reduction *in vigour is likely to be but often* in small gardens that can be an advantage rather than a drawback.

The three finest golden variegated hollies are, in my view, Golden King, Golden Queen and Madame Briot and if it is leaf colour only one is after Golden Queen is the one to choose. But, despite its name, this is a male holly which can never produce any berries whereas the other two are females and, provided they have male company, can give berries as well as leaves, Madame Briot usually more freely than Golden King. So if you have room for two holly bushes I would suggest planting Golden Queen and Madame Briot not too far apart and should there be room for a third, I would add a good form of Argentea Marginata which is silver-edged, female and berries freely.

A variegated evergreen that I like very much is *Griselinia littoralis variegata*. This has smoothly-rounded leaves which even in the normal form are a *yellowish-green and so stand out* in winter. The variegated variety has a broad cream margin but it does occasionally produce stems with the yellow in the centre of the leaf and the green outside—no advantage from a purely decorative point of view but interesting as a talking point in the garden. I do not think this centrally-variegated form has even been given a distinguishing name *though Medio-picta would suit it* well. Hillier's Nurseries list a variety as Dixon's Cream, describing it as "splashed and marked with creamy white" but I have not seen this and it does not sound the same as the one I have just described. Incidentally I find griselinia much hardier than most experts would lead one to suppose and it rivals pittosporum in its ability to stand up to salt-laden gales in *in seaside gardens*.

I am not very fond of the so-called "spotted laurel," *Aucuba japonica variegata* (or *maculata*, whichever catalogue you happen to consult) though in its very best forms, such as *Crotonifolia, it can be a most* striking yellow variegated evergreen. But I do like a variety I purchased a year or so ago from County Park Nurseries, Hornchurch, as Sulphurea which, in place of yellow spots indiscriminately scattered all over a large shining green leaf, has an irregular leaf margin part pale yellow, part yellowish green, one shade blending into the other in a rather pleasing *way. Like all aucubas it has* the considerable merit of thriving just as well in dense shade as in sun, but Mr. Hillier says the colour is less bright if the light is poor. My own small bush in semi shade is nicely coloured.

There are numerous variegated forms of euonymus including something like half a dozen of the tall growing *E. japonicus* so popular for hedge *making and screening in seaside* gardens. But the most widely useful, so it seems to me, are the numerous variegated forms of the much shorter, often prostrate, *E. fortunei* of which the best and most popular at the moment is the charming little Emerald 'n' Gold, an admirable plant with which to edge a path or make ground cover almost anywhere. It is a short, hummock-forming plant *as is Emerald Gaiety, its* counterpart in green and white, whereas Variegatus (which is not the same thing as Silver Queen, though some nurseries say it is) lies flat on the ground or readily ascends a wall, fence or tree trunk if it meets one on its way. But the variegation is greyish green and white, often with hints of pink, cool and restful, delightful in summer but not a gay shrub *to liven the winter.*

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

The traditional Hastings congress opens on Monday, sponsored by International Computers and bringing together a strong and interesting world-wide entry for the Premier. The expected line-up, subject to late changes, is Grandmasters Speelman (England), Gheorghiu (Romania), Andersson (Sweden), Liberzon (Israel), Torre (Philippines), Alburt (U.S.), Marjanovic (Yugoslavia) and Ftacnic (Czechoslovakia); international masters Bellin, *Littlewood and* Mestel (England), Pinter (Hungary), Chandler (New Zealand), Peters (U.S.), and Sunye (Brazil); and Brito (Brazil) who qualifies as winner of last year's Challengers tournament.

The obvious feature is the absence of the Russians, who have played regularly at Hastings (with the exception of a brief interval during the Hungarian crisis of 1956) for nearly 30 years. For the past two years the USSR chess authorities sent second-line grandmasters who entered late, were clearly tired from playing in the Russian championship which overlapped with Hastings, and treated the spectators to a series of dull draws. So Hastings this time asked that the Soviet players be chosen from a list of top names such as Tal and Kasparov; the Russians, again replying late, offered the second-liners Sveshnikov and Mikhailchishin: whereupon Hastings declined their entries.

It cannot be said that this year's event loses much in sporting interest from their absence. The entry has an exceptionally good global spread and contains the traditional mixture of well-established world-class GMs such as Andersson and Gheorghiu and rising stars such as Chandler, Ftacnic, and *Marjanovic. Moreover, the* Russians are not really absent: both Alburt and Liberzon are ex-Soviet players who have made a successful new career in the West. The British contingent lacks the two leading GMs Miles and Nunn, but still has a young and talented look.

The special interest for home supporters will be whether Jonathan Mestel, a frustrating one game short of the grandmaster title for nearly three years with several near misses, can finally qualify for the highest chess award next to world champion.

Mestel was awarded the brilliancy prize at the Malta Olympiad for this week's game, and it will be hard to decide whether the Duncan Lawrie prize for the best English win at the world championship goes to his unconventional king march (see moves 37-43) or to Miles's more classical brilliancy against Ljubojevic published here on December 6.

White: A. J. Mestel (England). Black: B. Renman (Sweden). French Defence (Malta 1980).

1 P-K4, P-K3; 2 P-Q4, P-Q4; 3 N-QB3, B-N5; 4 N-K2, PxP; 5 P-QR3, B-K2; (if BxN ch; 6 NxB, P-KB4; 7 P-B3 with a strong attack); 6 NxP, N-KB3; 7 Q-Q3, QN-Q2; 8 B-B4, 0-0; 9 O-O-O, NxN; 10 QxN, P-QB4; 11 N-B3, N-B3; 12 Q-K1! (a far-seeing retreat which subsequently proves a good attacking square for the queen), PxP; 13 B-K5, Q-R4; 14 RxP, R-Q1; 15 R-QR4 (harassing the queen gives White extra time to push forward rapidly on the other side of the board), Q-N3; 16 R-QB4, R-Q2; 17 B-Q3, P-QR3; 18 P-KN4, Q-Q1; 19 P-N5, N-R4; 20 R-N1, P-KN3; 21 R-KR4!

It required fine judgment to foresee that the following complications favoured White. Black has to accept the offer, for if RxB; 22 RxN, RxN; 23 BxR, PxN; 24 Q-K5 and mates.

21 . . . BxP ch; 22 RxB, QxR ch; 23 P-B4, Q-K2; 24 RxN, P-B3! (the only defence; if PxR; 25 Q-N1 ch — see note to move 12! — K-B1; 26 Q-N7 ch, K-K1; 27 N-K4); 25 Q-N1, RxB; 26 PxR, PxB; 27 PxP, Q-N2; 28 R-N5, B-Q2; 29 N-K4, R-B1 ch; 30 K-N1, B-N4; 31 N-B6 ch, K-R1; 32 Q-K3, Q-QB2; 33 R-N2, Q-B3; 34 R-KB2, Q-R8 ch; 35 K-R2, R-B8; 36 Q-R6!

The logical mating conclusion of White's earlier play, yet it required both courage and precise calculation to decide that Black's long run of checks will eventually come to nothing.

36...R-R8 ch: 37 K-N3,Q-Q8 ch: 38 K-N4,Q-R5 ch: 39 K-B5,P-N3 ch: 40 KxP,Q-Q5 ch: 41 K-N7, Resigns. This position was reached at adjournment and both sides found that after 41...B-B3 ch: 42 KxB,Q-R5 ch: 43 K-Q6,Q-Q5 ch: 44 KxP,Q-N3 ch: 45 K-Q5,Q-N2 ch: 46 K-Q4, Q-N3 ch: 47 K-K4,R-K8 ch: 48 K-B3,Q-B3 ch; 49 N-K4 Black's attack peters out while White keeps his mate threats.

POSITION No. 351

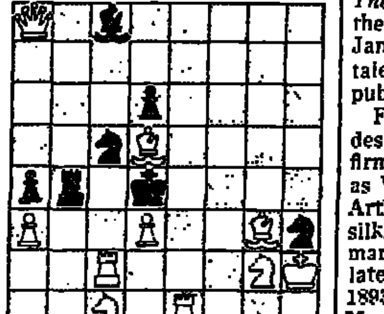
BLACK (5 men)

WHITE (4 men)

From a Yugoslav tournament game, 1979. Black (to move) is a pawn up, but there is little material left and it is well-known that pawns on one side of the board only increase the chances of a draw. What should Black play, and how should the game go?

PROBLEM No. 351

BLACK (7 men)



WHITE (10 men)

White mates in two moves, against any defence (by W. Barclay). Not an easy puzzle —on a previous appearance almost half a chess columnist's regular solvers sent in the wrong answer.

Solutions, Page 8

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

TODAY I am going to discuss two hands sent to me by readers. The first one turned up in a game of rubber bridge:

```
            N
         ♠ J 9 5 2
         ♡ J 7 3
         ◇ A Q 4 2
         ♣ Q 5
W                   E
♠ 8 6           ♠ A 10 7 4
♡ Q 5 4         ♡ 10 9 6 2
◇ 10 8 7 3      ◇ 9 6 5
♣ J 7 6 3       ♣ 4 2
            S
         ♠ K Q 3
         ♡ A K 8
         ◇ K J
         ♣ A K 10 9 8
```

South dealt at a love score, but I have no details of the bidding, so let us construct a sequence of our own. It is not, frankly, an easy hand to bid, but perhaps South should open the bidding with two clubs, and North—a very strict Acolite—replies with two diamonds. South rebids two no trumps, announcing a balanced 23 points, and North raises to six no trumps.

My correspondent finished in a contract of three no trumps, and played, as he says, rather carelessly. Winning the opening diamond lead, he played King, followed by Queen of Spades to dislodge the Ace, won the diamond return, and immediately tested the clubs. When they did not break, he had to be content with 11 tricks. "At what stage," he asks, "does one try the clubs?"

Let us replay the hand together. We win the diamond lead with the King, play the spade King, which holds, and follow with the Queen which loses to East's Ace. Winning the diamond return, we cash the Ace and King of hearts—the Vienna Coup—and then cross to the Queen of clubs. This is the six-card ending:

```
            N
         ♠ J 9
         ♡ J
         ◇ A Q
         ♣ 5
W                   E
♠ —             ♠ 10 7
♡ Q             ♡ 10 9
◇ 10 8          ◇ 6
♣ J 7 6         ♣ 4
            S
         ♠ 3
         ♡ 8
         ◇ —
         ♣ A K 10 9
```

Dummy's two diamonds are cashed, and the Knave of spades which follows squeezes West.

So far, so good. But suppose East is an expert defender and knows how to defend against squeezes—he will allow the spade Queen as well as the King to win. By this means he upsets the timing, that is to say, he has prevented the declarer from rectifying the count, and the squeeze no longer operates.

Mark you, the declarer, if he is clairvoyant, can still get home by a squeeze and endplay—I leave you to work this out *for yourself*.

The second hand occurred in a team match—it is purely a bidding problem:

```
            N
         ♠ A 3 2
         ♡ J 9 7 6 4 2
         ◇ A K 4
         ♣ 10
W                   E
♠ K J 8 6 4     ♠ Q 9 7 5
♡ A K 10        ♡ Q 8 5 3
◇ 6 2           ◇ —
♣ K J 6         ♣ A 9 8 7 3
            S
         ♠ 10
         ♡ —
         ◇ Q J 10 9 8 7 5 3
         ♣ Q 5 4 2
```

At love all West dealt and bid one spade, North said two hearts, East raised to three spades, South competed with four diamonds, and West went to four spades.

North doubled, which is the last bid I would have made. After South's bid the spade Ace is the only trick North can count on, and that was, in fact, all he made. I would have bid five diamonds, and six diamonds over five spades, and seven diamonds if the opponents persisted with six spades, as an insurance policy. Six spades is cold for East-West, unless North leads a heart, and North-South must make 11 tricks in diamonds unless West finds a trump lead.

Recollections of a silver studio

COLLECTING

JUNE FIELD

A NAME that appeared intermittently throughout Liberty's glittering centenary exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1975 was that of the Silver Studio.

The famous Peacock Feather, a striking cotton in greens, yellows and blues, originally designed by Arthur Silver c1887, was revived to mark the store's 100 years and there were silver items attributed to Reginald (Rex) Silver, who, with his brother Harry eventually took over the running of the studio after his father's death.

But only now, with the remarkable exhibition, *A London Design Studio 1880-1963 — The Silver Studio Collection*, at the Museum of London until January 31, is the enormously talented output of this little publicised firm wholly revealed.

For although the studio designed for a large number of firms as well as Liberty, such as Warner and Sons (for whom Arthur Silver designed dress silks for Princess May of Teck's marriage to the Duke of York, later King George the Fifth, in 1893), Sanderson, Courtauld, Morton Sundour and so on, manufacturers rarely credit designers.

Yet the Silver Studio was in tune with most of the avant garde design movements of the era, emulating William Morris *chintzes, the Japanese craze and* art nouveau florals, as well as promoting French chinoiseries, designs based on Tudor and Stuart needlework, neo-Baroque and Regency.

In the 1920s they developed Egyptian motifs inspired by Lord Carnarvon's discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb, and by the 1930s they were experimenting with Cubism.

Between 1880 and 1963 the Silver Studio produced nearly 30,000 designs for furnishing and dress fabrics, wallpapers, carpets, metalwork, book jackets, advertisements and trade cards, as well as for furniture and complete interiors.

In 1967, Miss Mary Peerless, Rex Silver's step-daughter (his first wife, Ruby Orchard, died of a heart attack two years after *they were married, and in 1922* he married a war widow, Sybil Peerless), donated the studio's contents to Hornsey College of Art, now part of Middlesex Polytechnic.

The collection comprises about 20,000 designs, 2,000 wallpapers, 50 wallpaper pattern books, some 4,000 textile samples, a large library of works on design, considerable *visual reference material, and* approximately 4,000 postcards, letters, trade cards, newspaper cuttings etc.

The whole adds up to a unique archive through which researchers can trace a large slice of British decorative design history.

*The Silver Studio kept meti*culous records, so most of the designs can be dated by using the day books and diaries cross-referenced with the photographic documentation.

Arthur Silver (1857-1896), ran the studio first from 84 Brook Green, Hammersmith, then 4 Haarlem Road, later giving up No. 4 and buying No. 3 Haarlem Road. In 1912, Rex *sold No. 3, and bought the* corner house at No. 1. (This last home of the Silver Studio is now the base for the Augustine Studios, a flourishing design practice of graphic and interior designers, sculptors, painters and architects.)

The exhibition, designed by Arthur Silver's great grandson, architect Mr. Martin Haxworth, shows how much a part of the contempory design world the Silver family were.

Designer Walter Crane, wrote shortly after Arthur Silver's death: "He was an able and graceful designer and an amiable character." Christmas cards over the years include one from Ambrose Heal—the studio designed for Heal's in the early 1920s.

How Archibald Knox (1864-*1933), Manx designer who pro*duced the earliest designs for Liberty's *Cymric* silver, came to be working for the Silver Studio, is the subject of considerable conjecture.

It is thought that designer Christopher Dresser introduced him to the Studio, where his *son was an apprentice. The ex*cellent catalogue published by Lund Humphries, is £5 from the exhibition, or plus 95p postage from the communications officer Mrs. Roberta de Joia, Middlesex Polytechnic, 114 Chase Side Road, London, N.14.

It is interesting to recall too, that Christopher Dresser (1834-1904), was in partnership in an Oriental goods business in 1879 *with Charles Holme, a business*man from Bradford, Yorkshire, who in 1893 founded the famous *Studio* magazine.

Arthur Silver's closest friendship is credited as being with the first editor of *The Studio*, Gleeson White, and early numbers of the magazine show that Mr. White publicised his friend's designs and activities with considerable enthusiasm, writing to *Rex when Arthur died:* "Your dear father at times liked to discuss his designs with me . . . I owe so much to him, and feel so heavily the loss of my most loyal friend."

The exhibition goes on to Wolverhampton Art Gallery (February 21-March 28), Bradford Art Galleries and Museums (April 11-June 7), and Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-upon-*Tyne, June 20-July 26.* After that it can be seen by appointment at the Middlesex Polytechnic.

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Striking a new balance

NOWHERE HAS the Christmas spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness been more evident during the past few weeks than in the London stock market. It is not that the Champagne has flowed more freely than is usual at this time of year, or that all the market's traditionally warring factions of brokers, jobbers, bankers and investors have resolved to bury their many hatchets; the beneficiaries of this year's seasonal goodwill are to be found not in the City but in Downing Street and Whitehall.

It is, after all, only one month since Sir Geoffrey Howe delivered his autumn economic package and managed to disillusion even some of the Government's more uncritical supporters with what looked like an admission that the main weapon in his economic arsenal—the careful targeting and control of the money supply through the manipulation of interest rates—was being taken out of commission while the monetary experts sought an explanation for its persistent tendency to backfire. Yet, having shown its distaste for the Chancellor's efforts by falling five points in the three weeks after his package, the gilt-edged market seemed suddenly to find the capacity to forgive and forget as Christmas approached.

Sentiment

In the week before Christmas long gilts managed to recover nearly half of their earlier losses despite sterling M3 and public sector borrowing continuing to power ahead. Even more importantly than the actual gains in gilt-edged prices recorded, there seemed to be a change in the undertone of market sentiment.

Like the Government's own economic Ministers, investors seem increasingly to be moving away from monetarist simplicities to monetary complexities in forming their expectations about the future course of the economy. Instead of concentrating on the bad news about particular monetary aggregates, the gilt-edged market has been more inclined to look at the encouraging auguries in the trends of bank lending and, above all, of inflation.

Thus the fact that the pre-Christmas monetary figures showed bank lending to the private sector falling for the first time in nearly four years made a greater impression on the market than the fact that sterling M3 continued to grow at a potentially alarming rate of 2 per cent a month. It seems increasingly to be the actual rate of inflation and the trend in wage settlements, rather than the growth of the money supply, that is forming the market's expectations on inflation.

In a sense, of course, the gilt-edged market's pre-Christmas rally was more a confirmation than a reversal of investors' attitudes throughout the year. In retrospect the lesson of 1980 seems to be that investors are more impressed by political determination than by medium-term monetary planning. The fact that 1980 saw an increase not just in gilt-edged prices, but also of 25 per cent in the All-Share Index and of 19 per cent even in the FT-Actuaries Industrial Group index, suggest that investors were swayed by more than faith in the efficacy of monetary targets. All in all, with sterling rising by about 8 per cent against the dollar and other currencies, 1980 has been a vintage year for investment in British securities despite the simultaneous collapse in industrial output and in monetary control—at least in the terms in which the Government chose to define it.

Discounted

Against this background, the central question for investors now is not whether the coming year will bring encouragement in the economic indicators, but how much of the forthcoming improvement has already been thoroughly discounted. The trend in inflation now seems to be pointing unmistakeably downwards. There is plenty of scope for further falls in interest rates as inflation declines. If, as is now, widely believed, the sterling M3 figures are a lagging indicator of underlying monetary conditions and at times respond perversely to interest rate movements, even the Government's medium-term monetary plan could once again look plausible by the next Budget.

The danger for the markets is that just as some of the hopes which had been built up amidst the almost unremitting gloom of 1980 are being fulfilled, other doubts will begin to preoccupy investors. As the behaviour of the monetary economy and of the Retail Price Index comes increasingly under control, the plight of the real economy will come to the forefront of public attention. Investors, too, could find it difficult to disregard the movement of output and unemployment, both because of the direct effects of recession on corporate and government finances, and because of the political challenges recession could present to the Government.

Finesse

Eventually the fall in inflation and interest rates should bring about an economic recovery. But the Government will require a remarkable combination of nerves, sensitivity and finesse to keep up its fight against inflation if the signs of an upturn in output are too long in coming. For the markets, this political balancing trick will certainly be an enthralling performance.

DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE

Time runs out for The Times

By John Lloyd

THE TIMES—and its stablemates the Sunday Times and The Times supplements—are approaching another critical point in their struggle for survival.

In the next three days prospective buyers must, under the terms of the Thomson sale of Times Newspapers Ltd., make a formal bid. Less than three months later, on March 14, Lord Thomson will end his support for the papers.

The two factors which will govern what happens to The Times are painfully familiar. Prospective buyers must have money—Thomson International has spent £70m on the papers over the past 14 years—and they must be reasonably sure that they can deal with the print unions.

Indeed, the heart of the problem is that a deal has to be struck with the print unions which will bring printing costs down. On the Sunday Times (circulation 1.4m) profitabilty could be restored by reasonably continuous production. The supplements (aggregate circulation 170,000) have been profitable and could be so again, particularly if they could take advantage of lower printing costs outside London.

The Times (circulation 290,000), however, is of a different order from its stablemates. Its losses are huge—it is likely to make a loss of £10m-£11m this year, the worst in its history and although its circulation is now steady, it has fallen below that of The Guardian.

The situation has not been made any easier by the conditions attached to the bid. The twin deadlines—of December 31 for firm bids and of March 14 for closure—mean that one or other of the following alternatives is likely:

● An acceptable bid is received by that date (or one is chosen from a number of acceptable bids) and all the Times titles continue production under a single new owner;

● An acceptable bidder is found for parts of TNL—say, the Sunday Times and the supplements or each separately—while The Times is allowed to seek another home, or closes;

● No bid is received by December 31, or by March 14, when all the papers close. Immediately a battle rages over some or all of the titles, which are packed up by a successful company or companies. After a period of closure, publication is restarted on new terms.

● No bidder emerges at all, even after March 14.

Leaving aside the (unlikely) final solution, it is clear that all these possibilities depend on delicate negotiations at some stage with unions which have proven themselves the match of previous managements, and where industrial relations have been a series of interlocking minefields for years.

Yet delicate or not, any sensible prospective buyer of The Times is bound to demand that his bid is in some sense conditional on agreeing work practices with the unions which result in lower operating costs.

These negotiations will, in turn, determine the "market" price of The Times. And whatever happens, the entry costs will be high. The requirement for working capital alone would be about £15m, while contingency reserves and funds against redundancies could take a further £40m. Thus, the prospective owner of The Times must be prepared for a loss of up to £60m if his adventure fails.

Bargaining with the unions and a new proprietor will not begin until the New Year at the earliest, and the former are, as ever, keeping their own counsel. Still, the canny buyer has sufficient evidence from the past to enable him to come to a shrewd conclusion of what the unions' bottom line might be.

First, they will negotiate hard over jobs. They have already warned future purchasers that they expect the manning levels at TNL to be maintained: TNL, for once making a refusal which cannot hurt it, has refused to incorporate the demand within the conditions of sale. The demand may be merely an opening gambit: but even if it is, the loss of jobs will come expensive.

Second, the unions very much want continuity of production. A shutdown would greatly weaken them: as some officials point out, a new owner co[...] after six months of clos[...] pick and choose which p[...] workers, and how many, [...] wanted back. Some mili[...] chapel leaders would not be [in]vited back, nor would th[...] eminent Fleet Street charac[...] rejoicing in such names a[...] Mouse who attracted large w[...] packets for some years.

But there, of course, future owners run into p[...]lems: to follow the shutd[...] route, they would need to a[...] not to bid until the pap[...] closure—a possibility which [...] unions, with their sardonic v[...] of capitalist Press barons, th[...] unlikely.

Third, they will fight to[...] and nail to stop The Times l[...]ing Fleet Street. "We wo[...] rather see it close first," s[...] Mr. Bill Booroff, the lo[...] serving secretary of [...] National Graphical Associati[...] London Region branch. T[...] might look a little more fav[...]ably (but not much) at a lo[...] cost Fleet Street solution—[...]lowing the rival Guardi[...] example by printing on so[...] one else's spare capacity.

But getting that won't [...] easy either. Mr. George Jerr[...] the NGA's national newspa[...] officer, says: "I've made it p[...]fectly clear we think con[...] unity of production is v[...] important. If someone co[...] along with a lot of ultimat[...] we could be in for a battle."

For the unions, then, the m[...] favoured solution is a qu[...] sale to a large company wh[...] will continue production of [...] the TNL titles in the sa[...] centre. Perhaps surprising[...] this is now said to be the m[...] likely outcome. But those cl[...] to the negotiations stress t[...] much could happen in the w[...] of untangling TNL into its c[...]stituent parts both before a[...] after purchase.

THE COUNTDOWN

AGREEMENT exists among the main parties at Times Newspapers, and informed observers, about the main straws which broke Thomson's back. These were:

● An 11-month strike over "direct inputting" which the National Graphical Asociation was more determined to win than TNL was. Ended October 1979, at a cost of at least £35m.

● A violent disagreement between TNL and the NGA on the terms under which negotiations on computerised technology should resume: TNL claimed the union had said that direct inputting could be on the agenda within six months, the NGA said that the back-to-work agreement specified two years. Went on fruitlessly (for TNL) for two-three months, mid 1980.

● A week-long journalists' strike — the first ever — over an 18 per cent pay offer which fell 3 per cent short of an arbitrator's award in the latter part of August 1980.

● A failure, finally, to agree on anything on new technology. Negotiations which seemed to be going well in September stalled because the NGA members in the foundry insisted on extra payments. Against their own officials' advice, they stuck out for their claim and drove the deal into the sand by the beginning of October, 1980.

● The Sunday Times, plagued with disruption since the resumption of printing nearly a year before, lost nearly 800,000 copies on the night of October 19, 1980.

Three days later, on October 22, Thomson announced the sale or closure of TNL.

Hugh Routledge

The suitors, real or imagined

WHO, then are likely to be the bidders for the bed of nails that is Great Britain's most famous newspaper? Because The Times is The Times, and because it is in such trouble, it has attracted some unconventional suitors whose affection for it has already been proved by years of service and who hope that they will be attractive because part of their unconventionality is that they claim to offer, through some form of worker representation on the board, a way out of the fraught industrial relations which keep Fleet Street on the razor's edge.

These are two internal groups currently at work:

The Rees-Mogg consortium: Mr. Rees-Mogg argued, in a Times feature on October 23, the day after the Thomson announcement of sale or closure, for a split between the Sunday Times and The Times; for Times journalists taking "prime responsibility" for saving the paper and for their having a (minority) share in an ownership split, like an independent television company, among a small number of companies.

Since then, he has received a very guarded blessing for his project from Lord Thomson, the promise of backing of Lord Weinstock, managing director of GEC; and has had a "number of conversations with people of considerable resources."

Money, he says, is not the problem: the future costs of The Times are. The paper need not necessarily leave Fleet Street, but must get below Fleet Street costs.

These endeavours are undertaken for The Times' future, not his own. He wants to leave the editor's chair: first, because he believes that his 14 years in it is long enough (His most famous predecessor, Delane, was "at his best in his first decade," he recalls) and second because he has grown weary of his prime commodity, daily news. It takes, he says a larger and larger daily charge to excite him, and thus inspire him to excite his readers.

The JOTT consortium, which takes in most of The Times journalists and is chaired by Mr. Hugh Stephenson, editor of The Times business news and often talked of as a future Times editor, closely resembles the Rees-Mogg concept. It, too, sees a consortium of business interests with a staff (not just a journalist) stake in that consortium: it, too, sees little difficulty about raising the cash, more about defining the structure: it, too, believes the paper should remain an establishment paper of record: it, too, thinks the paper should be printed, on a contract basis, in London (and appears keener on this than Mr. Rees-Mogg).

JOTT, too, has been conversing with people of "considerable resources," and has acquired the services of Baring's, the merchant bank, and of the merchant banker (and former member of the Royal Commission on the Press) Lord Chorley to draw up detailed plans. It is anxious to appear responsible and be taken seriously. So what is the difference between the two?

None, it would seem, except perhaps that a certain coolness grew up between Mr. Rees-Mogg and many of his staff, especially after he wrote an article condemning their one-week strike (though in his prediction that it had threatened the future of the paper, he was correct). This should not be exaggerated: the two consortia work together, passing over contacts and sharing information.

Neither the Rees-Mogg nor the JOT consortia are thought to have much chance of success by many outside The Times, especially the print unions. Neither Mr. Rees-Mogg nor Mr. Stephenson—who says that "any journalist would jump at the chance of editing The Times"—show anything other than optimism over their projects.

The conventional bid remains, for all the activity within The Times, still the most likely outcome. Only one interested party has so far declared himself. He is Mr. Robert Maxwell, chairman of Pergammon Press, former Labour MP and one-time and briefly the patron of the Scottish Daily News. Mr. Maxwell will bid for all the group's titles, but will relinquish The Times if Mr. Rees-Mogg's plans succeed. If not, he will want to move its printing to his presses in Oxford: he is engaged in talks with the unions on this subject.

The other bidders are (as they say in Fleet Street) the subject of pure speculation. The purest speculation has concerned:—

● Sir James Goldsmith, chairman of Cavenham and publisher of NOW! magazine. NOW! has not done as well as Sir James hoped but it does not appear to have dented his enthusiasm for publishing.

● Mr. Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International (Sun and News of the World) and Press baron in Australia and the U.S. as well. News International is soon to move to new printing plant in Dockland with sufficient capacity for The Times:

● Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail and a chain of provincial papers. Recently closed down the loss-making Evening News, and has spare capacity. However, it paid around £20m in redundancy to News workers, and plans to start a new Sunday paper.

● A consortium headed by Lord Barnetson, chairman [...] United Newspapers, form[...] chairman of Reuters and of t[...] board of The Observer. [...]garded by some, including so[...] print leaders, as most lik[...] because of his establishme[...] position and general inside[...] feel for Fleet Street.

● Condé Nast, the U.S. co[...]pany which publishes Vog[...] and is itself part of the Ne[...]house empire, which owns [...] U.S. newspapers with a to[...] daily circulation of 3.2m

● Atlantic Richfield, the maj[...] U.S. oil company and owner [...] The Observer. Has now [...] Observer costs down somewh[...] though not, it is believ[...] enough to satisfy it—is intr[...]ducing new technology and h[...] enough spare capacity to pri[...] The Times (indeed, it used [...] be printed on Observer presses

Other companies, such [...] the IPC, the Economist a[...] Pearson Longman, are r[...]portedly interested in Tim[...] supplements, while mo[...] shadowy interests in the Midd[...] East and Hong Kong are sa[...] to have asked for the financia[...] memorandum.

Letters to the Editor

Imports

From Mr. D. Franklin

Sir,—Although Mr. Shore and his shadow spokesman Mr. Sheldon reason that import controls must save industry from the overvalued pound, both gentlemen appear to have forgotten that in October 1976 the pound was valued at $1.55. This should have resulted in an export boom and yet at that time Mr. Shore was already putting forward his "alternative policy" which included import controls.

Furthermore, Mr. Shore was a member of the Government which imposed import controls in 1964 with an import surcharge scheme of 15 per cent and again in 1968 with the introduction of the import deposit scheme of 50 per cent. This was to give British industry a "breathing space." This miracle cure did not breathe fresh life or investment into British industry but made many sectors even less competitive. It provided neither the essential spur to efficiency nor the increase of quality which is required for any industrial survival.

Marks and Spencer, which adopts a strong "Buy British" stance purchasing 90 per cent of the clothing it sells in the UK, recently stressed in your columns that this policy was not based on patriotism or tradition but on the ability of the supplier to deliver goods at the right price and of necessary standard. Import controls cannot help towards this goal and protectionism will only lead to the ultimate absurdity of everyone forcing everyone else to buy their shoddy goods and so live shoddily.

Denis Healey, as Chancellor said in March 1974 that import controls "would invite retaliation." Messrs Shore and Sheldon would be well advised to ponder the fact that at present Britain's plans to reduce textile imports from Indonesia by £10m has resulted in jeopardising sales by British companies of chemical plants and aircraft worth £150m. The British Embassy in Jakarta confirms that this is official Indonesian Government policy in retaliation for the imposition of quotas on textiles by the UK.

Britain imports more than 65 per cent of her raw materials and food and were these two gentlemen to become the Government Treasury team, perhaps they could tell us now they intend to export British goods to pay for these essential imports while pursuing an import control policy.

D. G. Franklin.
Lerpiniere House,
121 Kennington Road,
SE1.

Cars

From Mr. T. Whittle

Sir,—It is cheering news that the Minister of Transport has wisely abandoned the plan to tax all cars, whether on the road or not. Will he now, in concert with the Chancellor, please take a further step towards the equitable taxation of motorists and abolish the outdated "road fund" excise licence?

There is a perfectly easy way, at no cost, to prevent the £75m tax evasion—simply transfer the excise duty to the existing fuel tax. Motorists would then be taxed in the fairest way — exactly according to petrol usage. Those with above average mileage or larger cars would pay more, the low mileage "weekend" drivers would pay less and the two-thirds around the mean would pay about the same over the year.

A "pay as you go" tax would replace a pay in advance bureaucratic "licence" system, with no need to give interest free loans by way of stamps. Evasion would be virtually impossible and spending public money on a "new blitz" on tax dodgers could be avoided. Fuel conservation would be an added bonus.

A solution to the need for a car register has already been suggested in your columns. The MoT test might embrace evidence of insurance, ownership and identification, a copy going to the Swansea centre and a car disc to replace the excise licence. New cars would be givn a disc when first registered and there could be a simple procedure (or a re-test) on a change of ownership. One annual form would cover everything.

To evade tax is unlawful, to drive a defective car can be positively dangerous. Surely it would be beneficial, indeed overdue, to computerise MoT, send out reminders and make a valid (roadworthy) car disc a legal requirement.

May one appeal to Ministers not to be deterred by the fact that abolition of the excise licence was a Labour administration proposal. They should do what is right and fair to motorists and to taxpayers, having regard to the overwhelming need to reduce expenditure on administration. The very strength of this Government imposes a duty to legislate wisely, without fear, favour or ideology.

Thomas E. Whittle.
19 Kildoon Drive,
Maybole, Ayrshire

Rebate

From Mr. B. Ridout

Sir,—With regard to the report (December 19) by Margaret Van Hattem headed "Britain to receive £97m EEC rebate this month" in which it is stated "The Treasury said the refunds would enable public spending programmes generally to be sustained at higher levels."

Has anyone pointed out to the Treasury how much more the country could have afforded if we had not paid so much to the EEC in the first place? Why is it we so frequently are informed of the overseas aid donated by this country to the Third World countries but so seldom are told of the overseas aid paid by Britain to the other eight members of the EEC via Brussels?

Will the Treasury state when and where a receipts and payments account or profit and loss account is published of Britain's payments to and receipts from the EEC Exchequer? I would ask that it does not describe a "loss" as a net deficiency or as a contribution or by any other euphemism.

B. J. L. Ridout.
1 Lindsey House,
46, Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex.

Talent

From Mr. M. Nottingham.

Sir,—The Government was clearly wrong not to ban all cigarette and tobacco advertising.

One of the disturbing things about the wretched cigarette advertisements is that some of them show great imagination, and are almost genuine works of art.

A clear-cut case of talent misused and talent abused!

Max Nottingham.
19 St. Faith's Street,
Lincoln, Lincs.

Money

From Mr. R. Foale

Sir,—The economic history of the last decade has seen the attempt by the authorities to control the money stock by interest rates, but has been noticeable for the tremendous inflation that has taken place. This is reflected in the price of houses which have increased approximately fivefold — at a time when discoveries of North Sea oil have made us self-sufficient in energy.

The cause of inflation is that money and credit available for spending have grown faster than the goods and services for which they can be spent.

Why, then, has this expansion of the money supply taken place? It surely is that the experiment of the 1970s, in which restrictions were placed on the demand for money rather than the supply, has been a failure.

The authorities' attempt to control the money stock by interest rates is doomed, for the demand for credit is insatiable and, in an inflationary era, can only be controlled by unacceptably high interest rates.

With the history of the banking and property crisis of 1973-1974, and the continuing inflation of the past ten years, it is time to call a halt to the attempt to control the demand for money and to revert to control of the supply of money.

Richard Foale.
Studio Cottage,
35, St. Michael's Road,
Torquay.

Energy

From Mr. N. Jenkins

Sir,—T. T. Lambe and Dr. J. Fernie (December 17) both advocate courses that are not only strongly related but also concern recent pleas for lower energy costs for industry. In the use of coal for substitute gas and for power generation both correspondents offer excellent reasons but neither stands examination in the light of overall energy strategy. Dr. Fernie, however, is rightly concerned at too great an emphasis on nuclear generation.

While we have coal—or any fuel—we should use it with the least possible waste. There is one process—combined heat and power—that meets all energy requirements and which, while actually reducing consumption of gas and electricity as they are used at present, is in itself the most efficient producer of energy. Although this is widely practised it is increasingly opposed by the energy industries since its more widespread use means the inevitable relegation of these monopoly interests to secondary, although contributory roles. CHP is also the answer to manufacturing industry's plea for reduced energy charges. One could ask why Bulmers and Sun Valley at Hereford should be the only two to acknowledge this benefit where many more could; Mars should similarly admit its energy debt to Slough Estates' CHP scheme.

The answer is—as one suspects the Government does in its plans for reducing the emphasis on monopoly operation—to take energy strategy decisions out of the hands of the nationalised industries. We should set up an Energy Council to determine priorities in investment of national assets, reduction of fuel reserves, and sharing the market equitably on a consumption efficiency basis. There should be fair and not competing tariffs which at present encourage the more wasteful consumers.

Norman Jenkins.
Whitehill, Ewshot,
Farnham, Surrey.

Exchanges

From Mr. W. Grey

Sir,—If, taking your cue from the latest Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin, you are seriously in the market for "a more responsive indicator of the actual stance of policy ("Measuring the money squeeze," December 18), I can perhaps help you, having advocated one for some time past. It is, of course, the exchange rate.

Indeed, since nothing could be more responsive than that, I would quite happily give maintenance of a stable (within a, say, 4-5 per cent margin) exchange rate—indicating that policy in any given environment is preserving just the right balance — priority over any other monetary or fiscal target. Though such targets need not, and, for the sake of enforcing discipline and stabilising expectations, should not, be jettisoned, their appropriateness nevertheless should be judged by the exchange rate effect first and foremost.

Precisely the same principle also informs the (now nearly two years old) European monetary system, and we should, at long last, join it as a full member without further delay.

W. Grey.
12 Arden Road, Finchley, N3.

Housing

From Mr. D. Moss.

Sir,—The recent sparring between representatives of the timber and masonry industries regarding the relative merits of their house construction systems noticeably ignore the customers' preferences.

Hopefully, the customer, in making his investment will ask what he is buying. Brick "camouflage" on timber shells makes this leading question very relevant. Don't just look before you leap — ask!

D. W. Moss.
Beechwood, Box Lane,
Bovingdon, Herts.

Arthur Sandles, Travel Editor, finds places where travel remains an adventure

In search of the exotic

THERE IS a mood in the British holiday business at the moment which Nero might have enjoyed. While industry is reduced almost to its last glowing embers, the British are enjoying not the sounds of fiddles perhaps, but certainly the strumming of guitars.

Huge numbers of Britons will be relaxing on foreign beaches next year and reading about disasters at home in the airmail editions of their newspapers. And as the recession deepens, Britons are travelling further. Figures for 1980 so far show a 24 per cent rise in the numbers going to North America and a 19 per cent rise in visits to long haul (non-European/non-American) destinations. The rush for the exotic has become a stampede.

We are not talking about large percentage increases in relatively small original figures. Last year's total number of visits by the British to the U.S. of around 1m was probably passed in the mid-autumn. The "long haul" total had reached 1.26m by September, when the total number of trips abroad by the British numbered 14.31m for the year.

The remarkable growth in the UK appetite for foreign travel—stimulated by the considerable strength of sterling—has attracted the attention of anxious hoteliers the world over. Where once the British were good for a giggle in resorts which preferred to see the ample wallets of the Americans and Germans it is the Union Jack that is riding high. From St. Thomas in the Caribbean to Bali, Havana to Peking there is a growing eagerness to follow the example of Miami Beach and instal dart boards and serve afternoon tea if that is what the British want when they travel.

The result is that, for the searchers after the exotic, the different or the secluded life is becoming increasingly difficult. The bordellos of Bangkok are no longer a hidden world for the package tripper from Bradford; the snows of the Himalayan foothills are beginning to be worn thin by the trampings of Londoners; in Papua New Guinea they know the cost of sending a postcard to Plymouth; and in the Middle East the Dubai duty free shop offers some of the cheapest booze on the air routes.

It might be thought, for example, that diving among wrecks in the South Seas would be pretty exclusive and exotic. But at Truk Lagoon in Micronesia the waters have become so crowded with shoals of divers that the local authorities have moved in and capitalised on the whole thing.

There are less crowded places to see the underwater world. The Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador, not only have some of the strange wildlife onshore, which so intrigued Darwin, but also a remarkable array of underwater attractions. The real glutton for such underwater splendours can buy an 18-day tour which includes about all the diving you can take, and the company of a naturalist. (Don't call me for details, try See and Sea Travel Service Inc., 680 Beach Street, Suite 340 Wharfside, San Francisco, Calif., U.S.A. 94109.)

A little more accessible for those who have a taste for feathered exotica is Bird Island, a short flight in a tiny aircraft from Mahe in the Seychelles.

Bird Island, a true tropical idyll—but if you are the sort of person who is kept awake by the dawn chorus, forget it. Millions of sea birds use the small island as home or resting point on their trans-ocean wanderings. At dawn the sea hunters wing off over the beach, to return in sky-blackening multitudes with dusk. You stay in small thatched cottages. My own, a couple of years ago, had an extremely amorous pair of terns in residence in the rafters. Human couples must assess whether they are encouraged or intimidated by such overhead observers.

For many, however, the exotic has a more mechanical mood about it. The use of steam trains for some of the more fascinating journeys at least means a degree of exclusivity since they, unlike the cavorting terns, are a dying species. Only a couple of weeks ago I was sweeping through the sub-zero wastes of northern China in a steam-pulled carriage whose attendent was busily feeding a vast coal-fired boiler which provided both heat for the compartments and hot water for the constant supplies of tea.

A real hog for rail travel can catch a train for Hong Kong

Chinese trains are certainly an exotic way to travel. A spectacular way of seeing the countryside, they also provide the traveller (surely no tourist uses them!) with all the hustle and bustle of Chinese railway stations. You quickly learn that the gentle Chinese are as well practised with their elbows in the rush to catch the 9.35 as the people of any other nation.

If you are a real hog for rail travel, then you can catch a train in London and 39 days later step off on to the platform of Hong Kong's colonial terminus. For the first week you are in Europe, the second in Russia, part of the third in Mongolia, and all the rest in China. The starting price for this epic journey is £2,150. If you are pushed for time there is a cut-price Red Arrow service from around £1,000 upwards—that only takes 20 days.

Specialist in these journeys, and other Chinese fantasies (farmers' tours, doctors' tours, and garden tours) is Voyages Jules Verne, 10, Glentworth Street, London, NW1.

A little less distant is an elaborate Barbican Holidays plan for October of next year which involves taking the 1920s rolling stock of the Orient Express and sending 100 customers on a journey from Istanbul to London (starting price £1,825).

Of course the real train enthusiast tends to head for India, where steam still reigns supreme. For my money the Indian sub-continent remains the last resting place for true exotica. It offers comfort and adventure in one gulp.

Comfort is not always a prerequisite of the exotic. The real searcher after truth is prepared to put up with a few discomforts. Our Man (Her Majesty's, that is) in Havana, for example, is now working on a volume concerning the travels of Henry Morgan. He recently explained to me how his research was rudely interrupted when his wife's horse trod on an alligator and received a sharp nip for its trouble.

Nor is the exotic necessarily always warm. The keen skier can find slopes which are at times strange and certainly different. The usually chilling cost of helicopter hire can take the adventurous to starting points few mechanical lifts are ever likely to reach. For the downhill enthusiast let me recommend Mount Alyeska in Alaska, a fully fledged if little known resort where a fistful of dollars will wing you to the lonely heads of local glaciers.

Alaska, however, is not all that inaccessible. It is after all on Western Airlines' new route from London to Hawaii, where in January and February you can, with luck and a good north wind, ski on Mauna Kea.

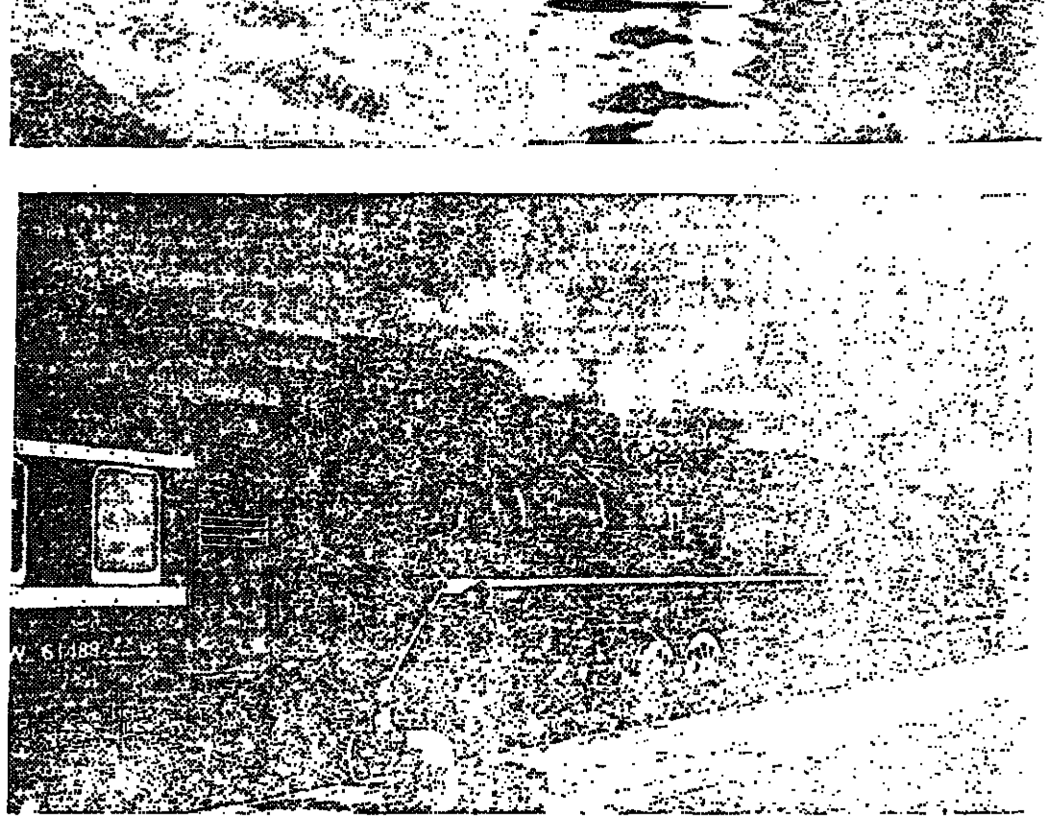
If you want skiing with an exotic sound, and yet relative simplicity in fact, try Gulmarg in northern India. For a variety of reasons the excellent beginner slopes which abound in the mountains above Tehran are not recommended for the moment. Elsewhere, the slopes of Portillo in Chile are much over-rated. The real searcher for ski adventure may score more points for having tried the slopes of Niseko Kogen on Japan's Hokaido island. Unless you are very keen on extremely low temperatures, however, these slopes are probably best left until late February.

Among other active holidays with a difference is rafting, which in this case means placing your faith in a rubber boat a-shooting rapids for hour after hour. Many states of the U.S. offer rafting trips, complete with overnights in tents on sandbars. Tennessee and Colorado are reasonable starting points.

If you want something a little less aggressive, try canoeing through Maine (contact Maine Wilderness Canoe Basin, Springfield, Maine 04487, U.S.A.) or kayaking in Alaska (try Twickenham Travel, 22, Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NW).

For those searching for more practical aid in the hunt for the exotic than this subjective list there are a variety of sources. The best single source is probably the Penguin Travel Guides. They come in various editions at various prices covering assorted regions (the latest editions of many are out on January 29 so I'm not supposed to give details until then).

If your bent is more to activity, then try the Guide to Adventure and Discovery published by the Central Bureau For Educational Visits and Exchanges, price £1.50. In that you will find details of everything from cookery courses in France, trekking in Peru, caving in Britain and arts trips to Hong Kong to Slavonic studies in Yugoslavia.



Pictures of the exotic: canoeing on a Tennesee river (top left), pilgrims bathing in the Ganges and a steam train in China (bottom)

Weekend Brief

Sales to end all sales

Traditionally the day after Boxing Day is the day when the annual bargain sales start in earnest. In years past the familiar sight outside stores throughout the country is of queues of hopeful bargain-hunters, eager to snap up the unsold Christmas stock at knock-down prices.

But this year the traditional bargain sales starting in many stores today have rather a hollow ring: 1980 for most retailers has been the year when the sales never ended.

Moreover, some major retailers—such as the Debenhams department store group—also embarked on the virtually unprecedented step of holding a special bargain sale in November.

Debenhams' decision to offer some £10m of merchandise at half-price only a month before Christmas was even more surprising given that the pre-Christmas spending period is normally the best time of the year for retailers. But Debenhams' has not been alone in its pre-Christmas price-cuts: virtually all other major store chains—including Marks and Spencers—have been trying to tempt the reluctant consumer to part with his cash by means of special price promotions.

And the price-cutting has not been without some success, in spite of the generally depressed level of confidence among consumers. Debenhams for example reports that its November sale led to a 60 per cent increase in sales value over the same month in 1979.

Rumbelows, the electrical goods retail chain, reports that portable black and white televisions have been selling like the proverbial hot-cakes all year. "The public has realised the fact that prices of such electrical appliances are cheaper in real terms than they have ever been before," argues Mr. David Johnson, Rumbelow's managing director.

The consumer, however, has had more opportunities than ever before this year to appreciate that it is now a buyers' market. Twelve months ago, over-optimistic stock-ordering by retailers meant that there was an unusually high level of stocks to clear in the bargain sales. Unfortunately for the retail trade, these high stock levels coincided with the rapid onset of the recession and the dramatic slump in consumer confidence and spending power in the shops.

The result was that the January sales simply did not end: they became the February, March, April, May sales and so on . . .

Most retailers discovered that people still had the cash to spend—boosted by the increasing numbers who had large redundancy cheques—but that the consumer was becoming more value-for-money conscious. Hence the need to prise the money away from the shopper through the means of price-cutting promotions.

But what is now uncertain is how far this year of price cuts will upset the traditional sales psychology. Many retailers are privately voicing the fear that the sales will by now have lost their impact: the consumer simply will not be persuaded that their are any more unrepeatable bargains on offer. There are also fears that the continuing reality of recession may make 1981 the bleakest-ever year for the retail trades.

But for those who still have the cash to spend, Harrods' sale does not start until January 10.

Walkabout on four wheels

Australians who go walkabout traditionally head for the interior on two feet, laden with tucker bags. But Americans, predictably, go walkabout on wheels.

They answer the call of the great outdoors in anything from air-conditioned motor homes the size of a Green Line bus to four-wheel drive pick-up trucks, from trail-riding motor bikes to VW Beetle chassis with a couple of seats but innocent of anything resembling a body.

Once it was easy to drive almost anywhere away from the beaten track in the U.S., but not any more. Conservationists and environmentalists have leaned on the authorities, who frown on such motorised goings on. If you really want to go native on wheels, the place you have to go to is Baja, California. Despite its name, this 900-mile-long appendage of the State of California is Mexican. You cross the border at Tijuana, a few miles down the coast from San Diego, and head south on state highway one, the vastness of the blue Pacific on your right, the rocky hills of the Baja on your left.

There is a good tarmac road all the way down to Cabo San Lucas, just below the Tropic of Cancer. The Baja buff ignores it. He takes the dotted roads on the map, heading off into the unknown. Road is strictly a courtesy title. They are sand and rock tracks, sometimes like dried up river beds, an other times like the Sahara desert.

Once a year, the world's craziest motor race is held over them. It's a no holds barred event. Anything that goes, goes. Entries range from hotted-up pick-ups with oversized sand tyres to things like tea trays, with a Porsch engine at the back and hoops of steel tube to save the driver's neck when he overturns. They often do, sometimes end over end. Every Baja race claims its casualties among men and machines. One U.S. journalist wrote after competing in his first (and last) Baja race: 'I challenged the Baja—and it won, easily.' He destroyed his car eight miles from the start.

Most Baja off-roaders eventually call at Mike's Sky Ranch. It's a watering hole with a well stocked bar. To get there, you leave the tarmac and drive for an hour into the wilderness along a track that needs care in a four-wheel drive. A soloon car survives only if driven with the right mix of delicacy—over the rocks—and a heavy right foot through deep sand.

Here the afficianadoes swap stories over margaritas—tequila and lime juice, with a rim of salt round the glass to make you want another—or cold beer. The owner, Mike Leon, is a former cab driver and night club owner straight out of Hemmingway. He carved out the road himself with a bulldozer. It took him a year. He made an airstrip, too, but it was washed away in a flood. Understood, he bulldozed another. You have to drive through a river to reach his ranch.

Mike says the Baja is the greatest place in the world for the man who wants to pit his wits and his automobile against nature. "Try to do it in the States nowadays and you will get a ticket for violating some conservation law," even for driving an unlicensed desert buggy a few miles along the highway. Here, nobody cares what you do. It is the last place within reach of the U.S. where the off-roader can be sure of not being bothered by highway patrols or conservation freaks."

Leonard Burt

A sad story of the deaths of kings

Peter O'Toole's association with the Old Vic, short as it was, may have long-term effects. In the first place, the Macbeth he played in is said by Sir Roy Shaw, the secretary-general of the Arts Council, to be among the factors considered when the Arts Council deprived the theatre of its £300,000 subsidy. More than this, however, the production's success at the box-office has brought in new audiences who will now believe that this is what Old Vic productions are like. Never can success have been more dangerous.

The suggestion that all the critics were wrong and only Mr. O'Toole and his director, Bryan Forbes, knew what the public wanted, will not stand up. Two ther directors had begun work on the production and quit when they realised what was in store. In the end, Mr. O'Toole called in a director who had not previously directed in the theatre, and a designer who had not previously designed for the theatre.

If the King Lear which Mr. O'Toole was planning for next year was proposed to bring in the same rowdy audiences, it is clear that the gulf between Mr. O'Toole and Timothy West, the Old Vic's artistic director, could only widen. And Mr. O'Toole's public resignation without a word to Mr. West is hardly likely to have warmed the companionship between the two.

A pill that makes petrol?

People love conspiracies: tortuous plots of how the fiendishly devious and clever conspire to become still more wealthy and powerful. An oil company research director assures me that he is often accused of having "the formula" for turning tap-water into a transport fuel and of suppressing it in the interests of oil company power and profits.

Now Hollywood has joined the chorus. This Christmas a film called The Formula, starring George C. Scott and Marlon Brando as an oil magnate, is being released in the U.S. It is based on a novel of the same name by Steven Shagan, which claims that the oil moguls know how to turn coal — almost as commonplace in Britain as water, the Coal Board keeps claiming—into oil. But Shagan says they are suppressing their formula at least until 1990.

"The Formula is centred around the proven fact that a vital part of the formula for the manufacture of synthetic fuel disappeared at the end of World War II and, in spite of the energy crisis in the world today, still remains hidden," claims a publicity agent for the film.

The plot is that the Germans discovered the formula and used it to fuel their war machine. But the oil companies seized it after the war and have locked it away until Saudi Arabia dries up. Then they will be ready to use it on all the coalfields they have lately been buying.

All good clean fun—except that the film-makers are presenting their plot as fact. As such, it threatens to embarrass the oil companies almost as much as The China Syndrome embarrassed the nuclear industry.

But a Press release from MGM's publicity people quotes the author as claiming that Mobil executives have the magic formula, "have had it since World War II." The claim prompted the investigating Washington weekly Science to ask questions.

Science asked Steven Shagan outright what the formula is. It reports how he lapsed "into a strangely unimaginative vagueness" in replying: "When I saw the formula it was probably 6,000 different equations." And the catalyst? Shagan thought that it may have included platinum and iridium—catalysts well documented for decades in the extensive literature of synthetic fuels.

The facts are quite different but nevertheless bear an important lesson for politicians. The Germans certainly made oil from coal during the war. At peak production they were converting about 4m tonnes of coal a year into petrol, using about 15 synfuel plants.

The processes were far form economic at prevailing world oil prices, and became disastrously less so after the war. But they obviously made sense for the Germans when the asked the question: what is the cost of not having enough oil? The South Africans asked this question after the war. The answer led them to develop Germany's war-time technology into the Sasol process which promises to be supplying half their transport fuel within a few years.

Back in West Germany, however, they are spending prodigiously trying to develop new ways of turning coal into oil. They foresee a huge world market opening for this technology when Saudi dries up. To their embarrassment something important has disappeared.

It's not "6,000 equations" or a magic potion, but people; people with "green fingers" who taught themselves how to do it once, but have retired, died, gone off to help the South Africans. While advancing the technology, the Germans are having to relearn much of the art they themselves created.

It's a salutary lesson, senior German technologists say sombrely, for those politicians who say of new technologies: "You've done it so now let's just put it on the shelf for a decade or two and see if we realy need it."

As for The Formula, Science's epitaph is that it may or may not prove to be a good thriller—The China Syndrome certainly was—but "as history it is bunkum."

Contributors

David Churchill

Stuart Marshall

B. A. Young

David Fishlock

BOOKS

Some person

BY PETER QUENNELL

Harold Nicolson: a biography. Volume 1 1886-1929
by James Lees-Milne. Chatto & Windus £15.00, 432 pages

Of the host of books that Harold Nicolson published in his long industrious working-life, *Some People*, which appeared in 1927, is said to have remained his favourite, though, when he re-read it or heard it praised, it occasionally embarrassed him; while *Lord Carnock*, his biography of his austere ambassadorial father, the former Sir Arthur Nicolson, which came out in 1930, he regarded as the best-written.

Each illustrated a different aspect of his extremely various gifts. The first, a collection of portrait-sketches, part realistic, part imaginary, showed his satirical wit, his fine descriptive skill and the blend of sympathy and gentle malice with which he looked upon his fellow men. The second, a study not only of his father's career but of the whole period of diplomatic history that culminated in World War I, revealed both his acute historical sense and his ability to weld a multitude of complex events into a clear and smoothly flowing narrative.

Each of these works, moreover, exhibited a curious personal trait that ran through nearly everything he wrote—his self-deprecatory strain, his habit of over-emphasising his foibles and under-valuing his good qualities. He supposed, he informed his wife, that it was "some form of masochism which made him love making of himself a ridiculous and slightly pretentious figure"; and in *Some People*, though he often scores off his subjects, he also manages to leave us with the impression that he had treated them a little shabbily and failed to grasp their less apparent virtues. *Some People* had a gratifying popular success. But Sir Percy Loraine, a worthy diplomatist nicknamed "Pompous Percy" under whom he had served at Tehran, voted it "a cad's book"; and other members of the Foreign Office, on whose good opinion he to some extent depended, held very much the same view.

Even in *Lord Carnock*, whenever the author appears, he is apt to play a faintly comic role. He describes, for example, how, while he was still an undergraduate and spending a vacation with his father, then British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, having mistaken the movements of an imprisoned cat for the stealthy footsteps of a Russian spy, he had thrown the ambassador and his aides into a tremendous midnight turmoil, during which Sir Arthur was seized and nearly strangled by an excited young attaché:

"It was years [he wrote] before the undergraduate could recollect the incident without the colour flaming to his cheeks."

In later life, such ludicrous mishaps, and the retrospective embarrassment they had caused him, were frequently the subject of the tales he told. It was not that he wanted self-confidence, or was inclined to denigrate his own gifts; in diplomacy, literature, journalism, if not in politics and the war-time civil service, he earned a solid reputation. What chequered his progress was an aspect of his character, a secret diffidence, a touch of self-mistrust, that somehow barred him from the heights, and condemned him to be merely "brilliant" rather than boldly executive and genuinely creative, as he was well aware he should have been.

Here the fact that he was a life-long homosexual, and obliged to conceal his tastes among his colleagues, though he never did so among his friends, may have helped to shape his personality. He believed, suggests his biographer, James Lees-Milne, that, despite all his efforts at concealment, his colleagues understood his nature and,

"like most normal Englishmen of their generation and upbringing, assumed that homosexuals, however brilliant they might be, were emotionally unstable . . ."

Hence, perhaps, the faintly defensive look, the pipe and the careless boyish smile, with which, in so many of the illustrations Mr. Lees-Milne has chosen, he is facing the photographer.

Harold Nicolson: A Biography is a book that the biographer of Byron, Verlaine, Swinburne and Tennyson would certainly have given high marks. He admired candour, enjoyed picturesque personal detail and the shrewd analysis of human feelings: and none of these attractive qualities is absent from Lees-Milne's work. Here is the discriminating account of an extremely loveable man. Harold Nicolson had a keenly intuitive mind, a warm heart and a

Harold Nicolson: detail from a drawing by Rothenstein

naturally generous disposition. He loved his two clever sons (whom their mother vaguely neglected) and passionately adored his wife, though passion of the commonplace physical kind scarcely entered their relationship. Virginia Woolf's idol, Victoria Sackville-West, was a fervently practising Lesbian; and her adventures have already been fully chronicled in her son's courageous *Portrait of a Marriage*.

Lees-Milne covers much of the same ground, and has been allowed to add the evidence of Harold's unpublished and deeply illuminating letters, which show how strong and lasting their strange alliance — to call it "idyllic" seems perhaps a little far-fetched — would eventually become. But Vita was an extraordinarily self-centred woman, proud of her literary achievements, of the ancient and noble family to which she belonged, and of the fascination that she exercised: whereas Harold was a modest and civilised person, who patiently condoned, understood and tried to explain her tragi-comic escapades, through "all the aching unhappiness, the doubt, the mortification and the loneliness" into which she eventually plunged his life.

It was Vita's blessed influence, together with the misery her absence caused him, when she refused to accompany him abroad, that eventually persuaded him to leave the Diplomatic Service and join the journalistic fray. In 1929 he entered Fleet Street; and there Lees-Milne ends his first volume. Whether Lord Beaverbrook's scorpions proved preferable to the Foreign Office's old-fashioned scourges we shall learn in Vol. II.

Vegetable loves (and hates)

Competition Report by **Anthony Curtis**, Literary Editor

IN THIS year's Books Page Christmas Competition readers were asked to compose four lines of verse, consisting of two couplets, on their favourite, or least favourite, vegetable. Two examples by Ogden Nash were given as models. "Twas an odd sort of caper," wrote Mr. T. K. Southworth of Westerham, Kent,

To open the paper
And find the FT
Wants an Ode to the Pea!

Maybe, but the response has been overwhelming. We have been bombarded with leguminous light verse from all parts of the UK and as far afield as California, Malta, Madras, Monaco, Johannesburg, Cairo, Alicante.

"I find," wrote Mrs. G. L. Kington of Gerrards Cross, "that I could quite cheerfully continue composing vegetable poems ad infinitum!" Many others discovered a similar facility, sometimes, as in the case of Mr. D. Pemberton of Altrincham, Cheshire, accompanied by alarming symptoms.

I've staring eyes and twitching nose
Which doctors diagnose
Is caused by heavy nervous strain
And rhyming couplets on the brain.

And Mr. Vincent Joyce, vice-president, Citibank, Hong Kong, writes: "Judging from the number of the attachments, you will assume that executives in Hong Kong have little else to do but write couplets. That is not entirely true." Perish the thought.

Some readers with very long memories like Mrs. K. Crouch of Southminster, Essex, recalled a childhood diet of parsnips during World War One, and on the same tack, Mr. S. Rothman of Cannes remembered the music hall ditty of the time, sung by Wilkie Bard, which went something like this:

Come to my garden of parsnips
Come where the cauliflowers bloom
I can't give you forget-me-knots
Pray accept this bunch of shallots
Walk with me round the cabbarges
Smell the perfume of the leek.
Marry me soon and on your honeymoon
You shall have three potatoes a week.

At the other end of the age-span, among a gratifyingly large entry from people at school, we had one or two competitors pushing eight, and masses under ten. We also had several group entries, many of them charmingly illustrated, from among the following schools: Downsend School, Leatherhead: Bromfield House School, Kew Gardens; Dartington Hall School: St. Nicholas Primary School, Hurst, Reading: Thornton School, Bradford: Spofforth School, Harrogate; Eton College.

Two adult competitors, Don Peters and Mike Abbott, went so far as to produce a finely bound, illustrated booklet entitled "The Anthology of Unsuccessful entries to the Financial Times Vegetable Competition," published by Mustard and Co.

However at all levels the task proved to be considerably harder than it looked at first glance. The difficulty of sustaining the impetus over the four lines defeated many who started well, but then petered out into the obvious or the irrelevant. Certain rhyming words cropped up again and again. The radish tended invariably to be caddish; the onion to be associated with a bunion; salsify to falsify; the marrow to be found in a barrow; the potato to interest Plato; the tomato to be eaten legato, garlic to plague the men of Harlech, and zucchini to be weeney. Bottom of the poll came the Brussels sprout and the indigenous spud at the top.

Even after the entries had been through several sieves with a narrower and narrower mesh each time there still remained a formidable number to choose from. In consequence I have extended the adult prize money two-fold to £200. The 20 entries printed below will share the first prize equally, receiving £10 each. Competitors still at school whose entries are printed below will each receive a copy of the book *Custard and Company*: Poems by Ogden Nash, selected and illustrated by Quentin Blake, which inspired the competition.

PRIZEWINNERS

If I had a daughter, I'd call her Letitia—
Not Pamela, Prudence or even Patricia—
In honour of lettuce, so cool, fresh and tender
(When taken with salt) like the feminine gender.

JOHN BATTERSBY

I first tasted chicory
At tea with the vicar, he
Said it was Cos,
But I'm damned if it was.

PAUL SWAIN

My neighbour's veg. is Brussels sprout,
I wish she'd cook it when I'm out.
The odour, noticed from afar,
Is higher than the MLR.

MOSS RICH

Though pulling artichokes, leaf by leaf,
Gives, prandially, some stress relief
Delicious eating of the heart
Rewards a finger licking start.

J. O. CHURCH

There's very little to be said
For eating radishes in bed.
They're slippery to get a bite on
And knobbly to spend the night on.

C. V. ABBOTT

En Angleterre, je déteste les petits pois.
Moi.
Mais on peut les manger
A l'étranger.

NANCY PHILIPPE

The unfamiliar Scorzonera
Is Russian Salsify, but queerer;
Its root when scraped is somewhat moister
Alleged, by some, to taste of oyster.

A. PARISH

Horrid haunter of School Dinners—
Bane of nursery kids in pinners—
Ban that beastly boiled BEET—
And give us something fit to eat!

MRS. E. M. STOPPARD

A freshly picked and hairy beet
Seems rather a daunting thing to eat.
However, tidied up and worscht
And rearranged, it's nice as borscht.

ROY BLOUNT JR.

Eaten with relish and gone with the wind,
Repetitive radish, refuse to be tinned!
So strong on the breath and so hot on the tongue,
Irascible radish, remain ever young!

DR. G. J. BENNETT

I rather like my watercress
As it is served in Inverness.
The canny Scots soak it in whisky,
Which makes this dull veg seem quite risqué.

D. PEMBERTON

MACEDOINE OF VEG

Said the parsnip to the swede (who had bean for a pea)
"You look so radishing, will you marrow me?
Lettuce beetroot; in holy onion wed,
Here's a ten carrot ring to wear on your head."

DAVID WALTERS

Hosts offer their guests broccoli
Somewhat coccoli,
As though it were a rare treat indeed
To have the opportunity of forcing down this limp, overpriced, and tastless weed.

DON PETERS and MIKE ABBOTT

Whether or not
You like the shallot
In the final analysis had to do
With whether the aforesaid shallot likes you.

JAMES GIBB

The problem with a brussels sprout
Is how on earth to spit it out
Without appearing very rude.
It really is disgusting, chewed.

JOHN SPARROW

I love Potatoes, cooked any way:
Chipped, roast, boiled, mashed, sauté,
Duchesse, in salad, in their jackets,
But not, O Lord, from SMASH packets!

MRS. J. H. MATHISON

GARNISH

I'm inclined to use parsley
Sparsely.
I'm inclined to use cress
Less.

B. E. STOLZ

EH?

Could you specify
Whether salsify
has raised your conciousness
Of roots, a) More? b) Less?

CAROLE FOY

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Cleriac.
Leafy shoulders and hairy back.
Aubergine.
Gentle curves and purple sheen.

JOHN and JOANNA TYLDSLEY

We like florettes of cauliflowers,
To nibble in preprandial hours,
Dipped in sauce or garlic drench,
With G & T or gin and french.

D. A. BOUGHTON-THOMAS

SCHOOL PERSONS

The cabbage is a giant sprout
whose presence I can do without.
God made it once, when feeling bored,
There's none in heaven, rest assured.

CLARE GILLON (17)
The Ladies College,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The red-hot radish
Only makes me saddish
Such fire, such heat
Wasted on something to eat

VICTORIA THOMPSON (13)
Rye Country Day School,
Rye, New York 10580

I often eat my yam
With a teaspoonful of jam,
It may sound quite disgusting,
But it keeps the spoon from rusting.

CLARE DOWDY (11)
Benenden School,
Cranbrook, Kent.

Artichokes are posh, and courgettes delightful
Red peppers are hot, aubergines frightful.
Tomatoes are sickly, and asparagus stylish,
But I'm glad to say potatoes are my dish.

JESSICA SCOTT-FORBES (10)
Broomfield House School.

To use a fork to spike a pea
Is very hard for you and me.
But if you fail, I fear your peas
Are bound to end up on your knees!

NEAL STODDART (11)
Downsend School,
Leatherhead, Surrey.

Celery Wisps
Go well with crisps.
Crunch, crunch, crunch,
How I munch!

E. MARY WAIN, (7½)
St. Mary's School,
Pottergate, Lincoln.

Little tomato red and plump,
You have no wrinkles, just a bump.
With all those little pips inside,
You must feel quite undignified!

EWAN BELL (12)
Barnsbury County Middle School.

Marrows that grow,
For a vegetable show,
Always get eaten,
When they are beaten.

DEBRA HILDITCH (13)
Thornton Upper School,
Bradford.

Cabbage is nice
When eaten with rice,
But cabbage with chives
Has claimed many lives.

ROBERT HADDEN (12)
Brackenber House School,
Belfast.

Up in the air

BY MICHAEL DONNE

Jane's Aerospace Dictionary
by Bill Gunston. £15.00, 493 pages

Spitfire
by Bill Sweetman. Jane's, £4.95, 48 pages

P-51 Mustang
by Robert Grinsell. Jane's, £4.95, 48 pages

Focke-Wulf FW-190
by Robert Grinsell. Jane's, £4.95, 48 pages

Messerschmitt Bf-109
by Robert Grinsell. Jane's, £4.95, 48 pages

Fokker—Aircraft Builders To The World
by Thijs Postma. Jane's, £8.95, 160 pages

Luftwaffe Test Pilot—Flying Captured Allied Aircraft of World War Two
by Hans - Wernher Lerche, Jane's, £8.95, 158 pages

The Almanac of World Military Power, fourth edition
edited by Gay Hammerman. Jane's, £25.00, 418 pages

For many years, Jane's has been effectively the "Bible" for the aviation fraternity worldwide. *Jane's All The World's Aircraft*, for example, is an annual tome that no-one in aviation can really be without. Now, this indefatigable aeronautical publishing house has come up with a veritable treasury of new aviation books, so that there can be little excuse for not knowing what to give that aviation buff who likes a good read.

What seems likely to become a permanent addition to the growing collection of "musts" for his bookshelf is *Jane's Aerospace Dictionary*, which will probably do for the aerospace business what Dr. Johnson did for the English language—codify it, and make it comprehensible. For aerospace, being a highly technological industry, is prone to jargon—the "Yuckspeak" that can turn such a simple situation as "we are going to crash" into "we are approaching a terminal velocity mode at this time." Yes—people do actually *use* that kind of language!

For all those who have to untangle that sort of thing, Bill Gunston's 493 pages will be invaluable. The book is what it claims to be, a dictionary and not an encyclopaedia, concentrating on technical terms, and leaving personalities aside. But it is fascinating in its own right, and at last fills a gap that has been yawning ever wider as aerospace itself has become more complex.

For sheer value for money, the latest issues in Jane's picture - book series of historic military aircraft will take some beating. These slim volumes are uniformly excellent, both in terms of factual accuracy, and in the clarity of presentation. Each book tells the story of the birth, development and military career of a famous fighter—Spitfire, Mustang, Focke-Wulf FW-190 and Messerschmitt Bf-190—with considerable use of meticulously drawn coloured diagrams, photographs and charts. It is hard to see how they can be bettered for aviation enthusiasts of all ages.

On a more expansive note, the history of that famous Dutch aerospace manufacturer, Fokker, from the same publisher, is full of interest for the aviation historian. Anthony Fokker began his aeronautical manufacturing career whilst still very young (he was only 49 when he died in 1939), building fighters for the German air force in the First World War—his famous Fokker triplane, used by Manfred von Richthofen, was for some time the scourge of the Allied pilots. This early fame continued into the period between the wars, when a long series of civil and military aircraft emerged from the Fokker factories. Even today, despite the fact that the founder has been dead for over 40 years, Fokker remains a major force to be reckoned with in world civil aircraft markets, and seems likely to remain so. This history, again profusely illustrated, was prepared in conjunction with the company to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. It should provide many hours of interest even to those whose interest in aviation is limited, so compelling a personality was Fokker.

During the Second World War, the German Luftwaffe learned a great deal of what the Allies were up to in aircraft design and development by capturing intact some of their aircraft, and then analysing them through a series of careful test flights. The pilot was Hans-Wernher Lerche, whose expertise unravelled for the Germans, without the aid of technical manuals, many of the secrets of such aircraft as the Lancaster and B-17 bombers, and the Spitfire, Mustang, Thunderbolt, Typhoon and Tempest fighters. The story as revealed by Lerche is an exceptional insight into a hitherto untold aspect of the Luftwaffe's war effort, whilst at the same time revealing the personality of one of the most remarkable and little known aviators of the Second World War.

Also from Jane's, but outside the aviation orbit, is the latest edition of the *Almanac of World Military Power*, comprising in one volume almost everything one wants to know about the military might of every significant nation in the world. A tome of value, not just to the military historian, but also to political and economic writers of all persuasions.

Crowds of crimes

BY WILLIAM WEAVER

The Deadly Document by Michael Bar-Zohar. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £5.50, 240 pages

Spies and counter-spies, plots within plots. A hapless graduate student, doing research in the Public Record Office in London, is handed the wrong file; and thus, by ghastly mischance, reads a document not meant for his eyes. He is savagely murdered; his beautiful French girlfriend has to flee for her life, but fortunately—having had an Irish terrorist friend previously—she knows something about life underground. The story is outrageously complicated, and the coincidences challenge the most acquiescent suspension of disbelief, but by some miracle the author makes you want to read on and rewards you, finally, with yet another ingenious and unlikely twist.

Copley's Hunch by James Ditton. Gollancz. £5.95, 224 pages

France, 1940s. A Commando sergeant and an RAF flying officer meet while escaping. With incredible luck, they make their way to the coast, gain possession of a kind of punt, successfully fight off Nazis, and reach England. But everything is not quite what it seems, and in the latter half of the novel—against all sorts of difficulties—Military Intelligence arrives quietly at the truth. According to the blurb, the author is "an old hand with a new name." Whoever he is, he is an accomplished writer. The prose is admirably economical, the dialogue is convincing, the little period details (dear old M&V) are accurate. And the story is insomnia-inducing.

Books of the Year—2

Critics choices from Woburn Abbey to Waugh

● The best will have to be poems since I seldom read a novel in its year of publication, out of sheer tardiness. (My avoidance of the memoirs of ex-Cabinet ministers, by contrast, is premeditated and deliberate.) Poems, then. Czeslaw Milosz, **Bells in Winter** (Carcanet New Press, Manchester, £2.95) is a selection from the verse of a great Polish expatriate and Nobel prize-winner, born in 1911 and now living in California. I do not know how strictly they are "translations," or whether translations at all: the title-page says they were made by Milosz himself and Lillian Vallee; and when a poet translates himself, surely, he is poet twice-born and all over again. Here are English poems at once intense and carefully crafted, some of them (in their originals) written as long ago as the 1930s. They are political only if it is that to speak coolly of the tragedy of our century—and some of the best, about the ways we live in our memories and through our memories, do not even do that. And yet nobody who read this exquisite little book could miss the high stoic note that speaks the Poland of our times: the heroic voice of an heroic people not yet free.

GEORGE WATSON

● Olivia Manning's **The Sum of Things** (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £5.95) ends a six-volume sequence which reconstructs a highly-personal and marvellously coloured experience of the last war. Altogether this distinguished work stands beside Evelyn Waugh's Sword of Honour and Paul Scott's Indian novels. Olivia Manning had found herself in Rumania at the beginning of the war, escaped to Greece, and then to Cairo. Her heroine, Harriet Pringle, submitting to just these adventures, is much of a self-portrait. The period, the places and the people come vividly alive, no mean feat when describing scenes of action, and battles. Beneath the intelligent observation and a spirit of comedy is a feeling of reconciliation to fate. Sadly Olivia Manning died shortly before the novel was published, though that seems once again to show how mysteriously an artist's life and work are shaped, and sometimes even fulfilled together.

Arabia, The Gulf and the West by J. B. Kelly (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £15.00) is a magisterial account of the events behind the Middle East headlines about supplies and pricing of oil, the fall of the Shah, the turmoils among the Arabs. Guilt and lack of will in the West have precipitated unnecessary ills for which all must now pay. The book, as informed as it is polemical, brings the modern world into relief.

DAVID PRYCE-JONES

● **More Time to Mardle** by W. E. Ling and R. P. Garrod (East Anglian Magazine, £3.50.) This book has not been chosen for any literary merit—but because it tells the story of what is becoming a rare character in farming, "the self-made man."

For W. E. (Billy) Ling was a farmworker's son who achieved his ambition to become a farmer—ending up with seven farms. And he did it all on a simple, some would say outmoded, financial philosophy. He believed in never borrowing money, preferring to go without until he has saved enough to buy whatever he needs.

This kept him solvent in the depression of the 1930s. Eight of the 10 farmers in his village went bankrupt. Mr. Ling was one of the two survivors.

He is now 78 and retired—enjoying a game of bowls, a day's shooting and a mardle (Norfolk dialect for a chat or gossip). Perhaps between all these activities he will find time to write another book. He insists that it is possible today for others to follow his example and build up a farming business from nothing. Mr. Ling would be just the person to give them a no-nonsense account of how this can be achieved.

BRIAN AGER

● William Golding's **Rites of Passage** (Faber & Faber, £5.95) is cast in the mould of the eighteenth - century epistolary novel. The main narrative is the daily journal of Edmund Talbot, an ambitious young man voyaging towards a career in the Antipodes. Talbot portrays such characters as an amorous and over-painted lady, a relentless free-thinker and a poor and pathetic parson, and we seem set for careless farce.

The novel does contain most accomplished comedy, but another effect is finally dominant: "I started to laugh—then changed my mind." By "convulsions of the understanding," the literary mode shifts suddenly from comedy to something wholly other. The pompous little parson abruptly ceases to amuse as the horror and shame of his actual situation are rendered, with an insistence purely contemporary. A most striking book, worthy winner of the Booker Prize.

The six volumes of Virgina Woolf's letters form a unique record of courage, self-knowledge, mocking levity and profound emotion. Woolf read Flaubert's letters "with complete delight": her verdict is: "better I think than his novels." I read her letters with similar delight. In the sixth volume, **Leave the Letters Till We're Dead** (Hogarth Press, £15.00) a peculiarly articulate woman faces national and personal disaster, and chiefly asserts her determination to live and her joy in living.

ISOBEL MURRAY

● This year circumstances have restricted my reading of fiction to old favourites, Balzac, Trollope and the Goncourts. However, several fascinating biographies and history books have come my way, including Georgiana Blakiston's **Woburn and the Russells** (Constable, £8.95).

This talented author has hit upon the novel idea of using the rich collection of portraits at Woburn Abbey as the stepping-stones of a delightful account of the Russell family. She has a light touch, a sharp eye for telling details and a feeling for history: her volume, which is based on unfamiliar documents, makes a distinguished contribution to the study of English life.

It is more informative about the background of patrician life than many a more ponderous time, and is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of taste.

So to Peter Hopkirk's **Foreign Devils on the Silk Road** (John Murray, £9.50) in which the history of the ancient treasures in the temples on this trans-Asian highway linking Imperial Rome and China is recounted with great skill.

Mr. Hopkirk devotes most attention to Sir Aurel Stein who was the prime explorer, but others such as Albert von Le Coq from Germany, and Paul Pelliot, a brilliant French sinologist, are also discussed. This lively book opens a window onto a fascinating world.

DENYS SUTTON

● The New York taxi-driver said, "Thank God, we can elect only one of them." I am different. I can elect two. By a coincidence, the two books I most enjoyed in 1980 were both collections of letters. The first is **Raymond Asquith: Life and Letters**, edited by John Jolliffe (Collins, £10.95). These letters by one of the most famous victims of World War I are of outstanding quality and interest: they will become one of the classics of our literature. These, I realise, are bold words. They are justified. Let me repeat the verdict that I first wrote here: "The life was short. The letters are brilliant. They sparkle with wit, high spirits and a flair for the unexpected epithet . . . they are not always kind, not often discreet, sometimes downright snobbish. . . . Here is life as it was lived in the mansions of the rich and the colleges of the learned."

The second is **The Letters of Evelyn Waugh**, edited by Mark Amory (Weidenfeld and Nicholson, £14.95). That Waugh wrote with brilliant venom will surprise nobody. Here, writing to people he knew and liked, the wit flows easily, the malice is unsparing. The best letters are those to Nancy Mitford, his rival in satire. The creator of those incomparable cads, Basil Seal and Peter Pastmaster, presents among countless pleasures in this panorama of gossip, the odious originals of those comic monsters. In 840 letters is recreated a small segment of English society in an age not long past but, already, incredibly remote. Constant entertainment.

GEORGE MALCOLM-THOMSON

BIDS AND DEALS

Stroud Riley has 22% of Hield

Stroud Riley, the Bradford worsted fabrics maker for which Mr. Stefan Simmonds, deputy chairman, is contemplating making a general offer, has bought the 3.4m ordinary shares and 14,150 preference shares of Hield Brothers held by Illingworth Morris for £227,029.

These shares represent 22.41 per cent of the ordinary capital and 5.14 per cent of the preference capital of Hield, another worsted fabrics maker in Bradford.

Hield has had poor results in recent years and recently reported an interim loss of £374,000 compared with a loss of £263,000. However, the directors said management accounts were more encouraging and indicated a near break-even position. The order book was said to be much improved.

Illingworth Morris, the Yorkshire wool and cotton textile group which is also in loss, said last March that it was putting its investment in Hield up for sale to raise funds to help finance two U.S. acquisitions.

Stroud Riley said it regarded its shareholding in Hield as a long-term investment in a company with similar activities.

Mr. Simmonds, a Bradford businessman, bought a 29.7 per cent stake in Stroud Riley in November, 1979 for around £407,000 and joined the board shortly after. Last month, after taking an option to buy 9.2 per cent of the company's shares from fellow director Mr. Joseph Selka and members of Mr. Selka's family and associates, he said there was a distinct possibility he would make a general offer early in the New Year.

LEVEX LAND PURCHASE

Levex has bought Whittington Estates for £547,000, and at the same time agreed to sell two tenanted farms which form part of Whittington's assets to Whittington's vendors for £437,000.

The remaining assets acquired comprise 220 acres of tenanted freehold farmland which is let under a protected tenancy at a current net rental of £6,160 per annum.

Levex intends to keep the land as a long-term investment which it believes will produce a steadily rising income.

WALKER AND HOMER

Following the allotment of 2.3m Walker and Homer new 5p ordinary shares to Harrison and Jones, H. and J. is interested in 2.4m ordinary shares of the company—29.9 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital.

Mr. P. H. Black, financial director of H. J., who has been appointed a non-executive director of Walker and Homer, is also interested in 29.9 per cent. The share subscription by H. and J. was announced on November 27.

EVERED/FRANCIS

Shareholders in Evered and Company Holdings are being advised by the group's directors to take no action following the offers from Francis Industries.

Evered's board, in conjunction with its financial advisers, will consider the terms of the offers and will be writing to shareholders in due course.

SPAIN

December 23	Price %	− or +
Banco Bilbao	249	
Banco Central	275	
Banco Exterior	227	
Banco Hispano	230	
Banco Ind. Cat.	120	
Banco Madrid	141	
Banco Santander	262	
Banco Urquijo	145	
Banco Vizcaya	263	
Banco Zaragoza	204	
Dragados	82	−3
Espanola Zinc	46	
Fecsa	62	+2.8
Gal. Preciados	24	+2
Hidrola	71	−3
Iberduero	61	−0.2
Petroleos	77	−3
Petroliber	80	
Sogefisa	102	
Telefonica	61	
Union Elect.	67	+0.8

Rush for Renwick shares following AAH offer

Kangra International Holdings, a company incorporated in Hong Kong, has bought a near-15 per cent stake in Renwick Group, the motor cruiser manufacturer with interests in road haulage and fuel distribution. The £1.1m share purchase was completed by the Hong Kong group on the day before Christmas Eve.

Renwick has already agreed to accept an offer from AAH, the fuel distribution, road haulage, engineering and builders merchanting group, which values the group at around £5.8m.

The day before the Kangra International offer it was revealed that Uto Bank of Zurich had bought shares for a "number of unrelated clients" amounting to 22.5 per cent of the equity.

The magnitude of interests held by outside groups means that the AAH offer for Renwick may not be able to go unconditional on January 5, 1981.

On the London stock market shares in Renwick rose .7p to 80p.

One interested buyer in the Renwick equity has been Mr. John Bentley's Bardsey group (formerly the Tebbitt Group) which bought a 10 per cent holding shortly after the offer by AAH.

Mr. Kenneth Holmes, chief executive of Renwick, said on Christmas Eve that his group was planning to make a statement next week on the latest developments.

He said of the surprise Kangra deal: "we will do our best to find out what is happening. It is a bit annoying and doesn't leave morale very high."

Kangra purchased 1.3m shares at 85p a share, representing 14.97 per cent of the Renwick shares, in a rapid share purchase under the City's revised "dawn raid" rules.

Fraser seeks more institutional backing

BY JOHN MOORE

Professor Roland Smith, deputy chairman of House of Fraser, has written to a senior executive of an unnamed major pension fund in an attempt to drum up institutional investment support in the shares of House of Fraser.

No mention is made of the current battle with Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate, over the sale and leaseback of the D. H. Evans store which Fraser has agreed with Legal and General Assurance.

In the letter, dated December 9, Professor Smith says "I am writing to you as a friend in my new role as deputy chairman of House of Fraser. I am particularly concerned to maximise the involvement of major City financial institutions in the equity of House of Fraser. The portfolios of the fund may already hold equity in House of Fraser, but I am looking for further support."

He adds: "the property value backing to the House of Fraser shares is considerable and retailing trading will not always be as difficult as it has been in 1980. If you wish to talk to me about the preliminary plans of the House of Fraser I would be pleased to do so."

Institutional shareholders may hold up to 40 per cent of the Fraser equity while Lonrho holds 29.99 per cent. Smaller shareholders account for around 30 per cent.

Professor Smith, it is understood, has not directed his letter to the head of the pension fund but has written on a private basis to one of his numerous City contacts.

Just before Christmas Professor Smith said that House of Fraser was holding many talks with the institutions about the Lonrho battle and its campaign was being handled in a "very intensive way."

Enserch shows sharp rise in earnings

Enserch Corporation of the U.S. has filed a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the regulatory body of the American stock exchange, covering the shares and debentures to be used in the offer to be made for Davy Corporation.

The statement shows that for the 11 months to November 30, 1980, Enserch's consolidated earnings attributable to common shareholders were $124.7m ($72.6m) on total revenues of $2.4bn ($2bn).

NCC Energy's Ni-Cal stake approved

The sale by Ni-Cal Developments of 205,300 of its shares to NCC Energy of the UK at C$16 a share has been approved by Canadian regulatory agencies.

Mr. Graham Ferguson-Lacey, chairman and chief executive of NCC Energy, will join the board of California Nickel Corporation, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Ni-Cal which is developing a major nickel-cobalt-chromium deposit in Northern California.

Granada increases bid for Whitley Bay group

Granada, the television and leisure group, has raised its offer for Whitley Bay Entertainments, which owns a leisure complex in the North Eastern resort, valuing the public unlisted company at £1.06m.

The offer — which is being recommended by the Whitley Bay Board — is a choice of 215p cash per ordinary share or 11 Granada "A" ordinary for every nine Whitley Bay shares.

The cash offer compares with the rival bid of 180p from Harry Swaddle (Coliseum) and with Granada's original offer of 175p made on November 17.

The Whitley Bay directors and their wives have accepted the offer in respect of 7.71 per cent of the ordinary. Swaddle, a family-owned concern which holds 9.76 per cent of the Whitley Bay capital, said late last month that it had received undertakings from a further 6.81 per cent to accept the offer.

Granada plans to make a cash offer of 50p per share for the preference capital.

ASSOCIATES DEALS

...On December 23, Laing and Cruikshank purchased 125,000 Gosforth Industrial Holdings ordinary at 41p for Ferguson Industrial Holdings.

Cazenove and Company, on December 23, purchased 3,000 ordinary of Joseph Stocks and Sons (Holdings) at 146p on behalf of Fitch Lovell. Cazenove and Company are associates of Fitch Lovell.

S & K Petroleum announces that its agents, Wood Gundy with Midland Doherty and Dominion Securities, have placed 7m common shares of the company at U.S.$5 per share.

Panmure Gordon and Company bought 35,000 Record Ridgway ordinary at 37p on behalf of Bahco on December 23.

Cazenove and Co. announce that on December 22 they purchased the following securities on behalf of Fitch Lovell: 2,500 Ordinary of Joseph Stocks and Sons (Holdings) at 148p per share.

Laing and Cruickshank, as brokers to Ferguson Industrial Holdings, yesterday purchased 100,000 Gosforth Industrial Holdings at 40p for Ferguson.

On December 18, on behalf of AB Bahco, Panmure Gordon and Co. bought 105,000 Record Ridgway ordinary at 37p. On December 22, on behalf of Bahco, Panmure Gordon bought 645,982 Record Ridgway at 37p.

has subscribed new capital to

OPTIMA MANAGEMENT

Mr. Harvey Ross, the Yorkshire bullion dealer and financier, has acquired a 62 per cent stake in Optima Management Consultants, of Leeds, for an undisclosed sum. He said he planned to put new management into Optima next year and expand the group's operations.

Optima has two subsidies, CPS Computer Services, which deals in computer software, and Nation Computer Systems, a hardware computer company.

SHARE STAKES

Colmore Investments—Albert E. Sharp and Co. purchased 240,000 shares 30p on behalf of Nesco Investment.

Alva Investment Trust—Cornhill Insurance Company has acquired 17,500 shares making holding 421,200 (26.32 per cent).

Youghall Carpets (Holdings)—M. McStay, director, has purchased 20,000 ordinary.

Boustead—Company advised by Globe Investment Trust that following the sale of part of their holding in the company they no longer have a notifiable interest.

Cattle's (Holdings)—The wife of A. N. Collier, director, has acquired 20,000 ordinary. Hornsea Cliff Estates, in which Mr. Collier holds a beneficial interest, has acquired 35,000 ordinary, and A. N. Collier has acquired in a non-beneficial capacity 20,000 ordinary.

S. PEARSON SELLS DOULTON AUSTRALIA

Doulton and Co., a subsidiary of S. Pearson and Son, has completed the sale of its 74.9 per cent of Doulton Australia to United Packages for an agreed £3.16m cash, or A$2.25 per share.

United Packages will shortly be making an offer on the same basis to the minority shareholders of Doulton Australia.

HANOVER ACCEPT./DORRINGTON INV.

The recommended cash offer made by Hanover Acceptances Finance for the whole of the share capital of Dorrington Investment Company has been accepted in respect of 5.74m new ordinary and deferred shares of Dorrington—94.12 per cent. The offer has become unconditional in all respects and remains open for acceptances until further notice.

BABCOCK MEXICO

A group of Mexican investors has suscribed new capital to Babcock Mexico. Babcock International, which has had interests in the country since the end of the last century, will hold a 49 per cent stake in Babcock Mexico.

Fifty-one per cent of Babcock and Wilcox de Mexico, Babcock International's boiler and water treatment company in Mexico, has been transferred to Babcock Mexico.

IBSTOCK JOHNSEN

Ibstock Johnsen has disposed of its loss-making Belgian subsidiary to a consortium representing Belgian private and public sector interests.

A small brick plant in South-east Belgium will be retained as part of Ibstock Johnsen's Dutch group.

BEN WILLIAMS

Wednesday's story on Ben Williams should have stated the market value of the company as £350,000 and the acquisition being considered in the order of £90,000. These were incorrectly shown as £3.5m and £900,000 respectively.

THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Francis Industries, the West Yorkshire packaging and industrial products group, made a 22p per share cash bid for Evered, the loss-making engineer, valuing the latter at £1.29m.

Dealings in the shares of Ben Williams were suspended at the company's request at 32p on Tuesday pending an announcement at the completion of discussions which may lead to a substantial acquisition.

Redland is selling its Redland Purle waste transport and disposal business to a joint company being formed by Guest Keen and Nettlefolds and Brambles Industries of Australia for £20m cash.

Davy Corporation rejected the £140m-plus offer by the U.S.-owned Enserch Corporation as wholly inadequate and not in the interests of Davy shareholders, employees or clients.

Argyll Foods, which recently acquired Oriel Foods from RCA Corporation, announced an £8m rights issue to partially finance the deal. Shareholders are being offered two new shares at 65p each for every five held.

Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder	Final Acc't'ce date
Aberdeen Invs.¶¶	100*	180	86	2.00	Aitken (Eng.)	—
Armitage Shanks	112§§	117	10	30.00	Blue Circle	—
Attwd. Garages¶¶	60*§	68	62††	0.42	British Car Auction	—
Central Man. and Trad.	49†	50	40	11.23	Hanson Trust	—
Colmore Invs.	30*	30	30	12.0	Nesco	—
Cornell Dresses	19*	58	134	0.57	Polly Peck	—
Davy Corp.	190§§	168	149	143.6	Enserch	—
Dorrington Invs.	125*	124	114††	7.62	Hanover Acceptances	—
Eng. & Overseas Invests.¶¶	12½	12	14½††	1.28	Pentos	—
Evered	22*	23	16	1.28	Francis Inds.	—
Gillspur	135†	130	117	25.43	Unigate	—
Gosforth Inds.	43§§	38	39	7.88	Fergusn. Inds.	—
Hawthorn Leslie	130*	132	107	3.49	Starwest	—
K Shoes	95*	103	80	22.4	C. & J. Clark	—
Laurence Scott¶¶	68§	56	60	4.66	Mining Supplies	—
Macanie (Lond.)	30*	30	23	0.38	Courtaulds	—
Mallinson-Denny	82§	74½	61½	43.68	Brooke Bond Liebig	—
Record Ridgway	37*	37	20	4.13	Bahco	—
Renwick	65	80	50	5.84	AAH	5/1
Royco	60*	56	48	3.00	Bonorpark	—
Stocks (J.)	151	150	102	3.75	Fitch Lovell	—

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital not already held. ** Based on 24/12/80. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Unconditional.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Arlen Electrical	June	331	(503)†	4.7	(6.7)	3.0	(4.5)
Ireland Alloys	Aug.	1,630	(1,690)	8.5	(9.0)	13.0	(11.2)
Westward TV	July	760	(791)	3.7	(5.1)	1.5	(2.0)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Audiotronic Hldgs.	Sept.	145L	(13)	—	(—)
Brasway	Oct.	196L	(204)	1.0	(2.0)
Initial Services	Sept.	8,930	(7,660)	2.75	(2.25)
Petbow Holdings	Sept.	552L	(576)L	—	(1.5)
Scot. & Newcastle	Oct.	19,300	(22,600)	1.5	(1.5)
Trafford Carpets	Sept.	109L	(29)	—	(—)
Wood & Sons	June	288L	(217)	—	(0.7)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)
* Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated. † Figure for previous nine months. L Loss.

Rights Issues

Argyll Foods: Rights issue on the basis of two for five at 65p per share to raise £8m.

Tecalemit makes £0.32m offer for Orbit Controls

Tecalemit, the garage equipment and combustion engineering group, is making an agreed bid for the 36,025 issued ordinary £1 shares of Orbit Controls, a privately owned industrial electronic engineering company in Cheltenham.

Tecalemit is offering 745,878 of its ordinary 25p shares which are to be converted into a like number of ordinary stock units. At the price of 42½p per Tecalemit share, the bid values Orbit at £316,998. The book value of Orbit's net assets on June 30, 1980 was £259,981 and pre-tax profit in the year then ended was £62,281.

The offer is conditional upon acceptances being received by January 15, 1981 and the admittance of the new stock units to the Stock Exchange official list.

The directors of Orbit have accepted the offer and tendered their holdings of 14,425 shares, about 40 per cent of the issued share capital. Other shareholders have irrevocably accepted the offer in respect of holdings which, when aggregated with the directors' holding, amount to 28,375 ordinary shares, 78.8 per cent of those issued.

FIRST CASTLE SECS./FLEETWORLD

Contracts have been exchanged for the acquisition by First Castle of Fleetworld for a consideration equal to the total pre-tax profits of Fleetworld for the three years to March 31, 1983, subject to a minimum of £210,000 and maximum of £675,000.

Initial consideration payable on completion, is £300,000 of which £210,000 will be paid in cash, the balance to be satisfied by the issue of 125,000 ordinary of First Castle.

Fleetwood is based in Maidstone, Kent, and its principal activity is supplying a procurement service to UK and European companies engaged in the manufacture of electronics and avionics equipment.

Net tangible assets of Fleetwood at September 30, 1980, were £87,575 and pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, 1980, were £40,465 and for the six months to September 30 £110,845.

BOLTON HOUSE SECS./EUROTECH MIRRORS

Bolton House Securities, with asociates, has acquired 100 per cent of the issued share capital of Eurotech Mirrors International, Bradford, from the HAT Group. It has also acquired 7.14 per cent of the issued share capital of Bradley Glass, Worthing. Bolton House intends to acquire a further 64.26 per cent of Bradley's issued share capital and will then merge the two companies.

As a result of this merger, the group will be able to provide a comprehensive range of glass products to the interior design, DIY and automobile markets.

CARRINGTON INVESTMENTS

Mr. Robert Orton and Mr. Peter Bevan, directors of Carrington Investments, now own 95.74 per cent of the ordinary capital of the company.

In accordance with the announcement made on November 24, it is intended to implement the provisions of section 209 (1) of the Companies Act, 1948, whereby the offer will stay open to the remaining shareholders.

Some improvement seen by Crystalate Holdings

While remaining cautious about the effects of the general economic scene, Mr. J. B. Leworthy, chairman of Crystalate (Holdings) looks for some improvement overall in the current year.

A lull in the rate of growth should make it possible for further efficiencies and economies to be achieved so that margins will be improved, the chairman says in his annual statement.

He warns however that the long run of dramatic growth at the A. P. Besson electronic products subsidiary is threatened following the substantial cutback in the UK telephone programme and the general effects of the recession.

At present it also seems that the Ebenestos plastic mouldings subsidiary and Osborne Electronics will have to struggle to have the order coverage sufficient to give confidence in continued growth.

As reported, pre-tax profits for the group in the year ended September 30, 1980, rose from £888,000 to £1.38m on turnover of £16.51m against £13.59m. CCA profits are reduced to £1.06m (£554,000) after a gearing adjustment of £155,000 (£180,000).

The value of goods exported from the UK amounted to £2.75m against £1.75m in the previous year, these sales being made to Europe 30 per cent, Asia and Middle East 13 per cent, Africa 47 per cent, Americas 9 per cent and Australasia 1 per cent.

Meeting, Great Eastern Hotel, EC, January 22 at noon.

LOVELL VENTURE

Agreement has been reached between Lovell and Christmas (Canada) and National Consolidated Food Brands, a subsidiary of the Heritage Group based in Ontario, to establish a joint venture in Canada in the cutting, packaging and processing of cheese.

The vehicle for the joint venture will be a Canadian subsidiary of Lovell and Christmas (Canada) called Winchester Cheese, which owns and operates modern cheese packing facilities in Winchester, Ontario.

National Consolidated Food Brands will acquire a 50 per cent interest in Winchester Cheese by subscription of C$2m of its initial equity base of C$4m.

Results due next week

Only five companies will interrupt the Christmas-New Year break to present results next week and none is expected to present figures that will dazzle the few inhabitants of the City likely to be around to peruse them.

Veetis Stone, the Isle of Wight construction and civil engineering group, had a 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profit at the interim stage, raised the interim dividend by a fifth and forecast increased profits in the year as a whole.

Since then, demand has slackened considerably but the toiletries acquisition should make a useful contribution. Preliminary pre-tax profit, to be announced on Monday, will probably be close to last year's £676,000 and the final dividend is unlikely to be raised as much as at the interim stage.

Machine tool merchant W. E. Norton (Holdings) fell into loss in the first half of last year and passed the final dividend after expanding the loss in the second half. Nothing much has changed in the machine tool business in recent months, and no one is expecting much in the highly geared group's interim figures on Wednesday.

J. F. Nash Securities forecast profit similar to last year's £598,000 and undertook to maintain the 3.5p final dividend when it announced a £1m reorganisation last month of its Reliant Motor subsidiary and engineering division. The directors were confident these actions would ensure a profitable future for the group but the preliminary statement to be published on Monday will probably reflect short-term gloom.

London Investment Trust, once headed by financiar Mr. Oliver Jessel and now run by former associates of Mr. Jim Slater, is reporting interim results on Tuesday. The group, which made a £410,000 profit in the year ended on March 31, 1980 following three years of losses, has undertaken to pay a dividend of not less than 1.25p a share in the current year, compared to 0.35p.

John Edward Crowther, the woollen manufacturer and spinner, is reporting interim figures on Tuesday.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

(Dec. 24 Total contracts 82)

Option	Ex'rcise price	Jan. Closing offer	Jan. Vol.	April Closing offer	April Vol.	July Closing offer	July Vol.	Equity close
BP	420	24	1	44	—	62	—	426p
Cons. Gold	638	3	—	12	—	20	10	528p
GEC	600	24	2	60	—	83	—	596p
Grand Met.	140	15	2	23	—	30	—	153p
Grand Met.	150	3½	2	11½	—	19	—	"
Grand Met.	160	1	—	5½	5	11½	—	"
ICI	360	1	—	11	2	18	—	318p
Land Sec.	360	—	—	30	25	39	—	359p
Marks & Sp.	120	2	—	9	—	12	1	112p
Shell	360	122	8	—	—	—	—	476p
Shell	390	92	8	—	—	—	—	"
Shell	460	28	2	44	—	60	—	"
Shell	600	11	—	28	2	•40	—	"
Totals			26		34		11	
		February		**May**		**August**		
Imperial Gp.	70	5½	—	7½	5	10	—	71p
Lasmo	700	67	2	130	—	162	—	752p
Lasmo	750	60	1	102	—	133	—	"
Lasmo	800	40	—	80	—	112	1	"
Lonrho	110	—	—	5½	—	8	3	94p
Totals			3		5		4	

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

1979-80 High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross Div (p)	Yield %	P/E
99	39	Airsprung Group	59	+1	6.7	11.4	5.3
50	31	Armitage and Rhodes	21	—	1.4	4.5	12.8
186	92½	Bardon Hill	186	—	9.7	5.2	7.0
100	63	County Cars 10.7% Pf.	63	—	15.3	24.3	—
101	83	Deborah Services	96	—	5.5	5.7	4.8
128	88	Frank Horsell	120	+1	7.9	6.6	3.8
129	60	Frederick Parker	61	—	11.0	18.0	2.8
156	72	George Blair	75	—	3.1	4.1	—
103	45	Jackson Group	103	+2	6.9	6.7	3.9
153	103	James Burrough	122	—	7.9	6.5	10.0
320	242	Robert Jenkins	320	+5	31.3	9.8	—
51	50	Scruttons "A"	51	—	5.3	10.4	3.7
232	175	Torday Limited	221	—	15.1	6.8	3.8
24	10	Twinlock Ord.	13¾	+½	—	—	—
90	70	Twinlock 15% ULS	79	—	15.0	19.0	—
58	23	Unilock Holdings	35xd	—	3.0	8.6	5.4
101	42	Walter Alexander	100	+2	5.7	5.7	5.5
251	136	W. S. Yeates	251	+3	12.1	4.8	4.1

CORAL INDEX: Close 464-469 (−1)

APPOINTMENTS

Senior posts at Allen Harvey and Ross

Mr. W. F. Richardson, managing director of ALLEN HARVEY AND ROSS, has been appointed deputy chairman from January 1. Mr. J. R. H. Cooper, a managing director of Singer and Friedlander, will become a non-executive director of Allen Harvey and Ross from that date.

*

Mr. Roger Bowes, advertisement sales director, has been appointed to the Board of MIRROR GROUP NEWSPAPERS from January 1.

*

TIME-LIFE BOOKS states that Mr. Keith Lilley has been appointed a director of Harrow House Editions and of Trewin Copplestone Books and it is intended that he will become chairman of both companies.

*

After nearly three years managing the London branch of the LONG-TERM CREDIT BANK OF JAPAN, Mr. Hiroshi Ono, director and general manager, will shortly be returning to head office in Tokyo to assume new responsibilities as director and general manager of the loan division. His successor will be Mr. Seiji Ohmi, general manager.

*

Mr. Colin W. Finerty, regional director for the North East and Scottish Region, has been appointed to the main Board of LOMBARD NORTH CENTRAL.

*

Mr. R. A. McNeile, deputy chairman, ARTHUR GUINNESS SON AND COMPANY, will retire from the Board on February 5.

*

Mr. Keith A. Jeffrey, Mr. Gerald D. W. Coleman and Mr. Howard C. C. Gosling have become additional directors of VOXSAN.

*

Mr. Gerald Wightman has been appointed a non-executive director of the UBM GROUP from January 1. Mr. Wightman is chairman and chief executive of Sketchley. Mr. William Fieldhouse has resigned as a non-executive director from the end of this year because of his business commitments elsewhere.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Little change on Wall St.

MARKETS WERE little changed in extremely light trading on Wall Street yesetrday, when most investors were taking a long Christmas holiday weekend.

By 1 pm the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.26 at 963.31, making a rise of 26.11 on the holiday shortened week, while the NYSE All Common Index, at $77.97, rose 2 cents on thet day and $1.11 on the week. But declines slightly outpaced advances in a volume of only 11.22m shares against 23.03m at 1 pm on Wednesday.

There was some year-end portfolio adjustments for tax purposes, but analysts noted no real trend could be discerned because of the Stock Market's thinness.

Analysts said the outlook for interest rates remain uncertain, and there may have been some disappointment that Citibank chose to maintain its Prime Rate at 21½ per cent, rather than lowering it. Earlier this week, Chase Manhattan and Wells Fargo cut their rate to 20½ per cent.

Curtiss-Wright added $⅞ at $39⅛—a Federal Judge ruled that Kennecott is free to continue its tender offer for about 49 per cent of Curtiss' stocks at $40 a share. Kennecott held unchanged at $27⅛.

Volume leader K Mart were down $⅛ to $18⅛, but active Sears Roebuck gained $¼ to $16. Federated Department Stores moved up $⅞ to $29⅞.

Many Oil issues were weaker, with Mobil off $⅞ to $82⅞, Standard Oil of Indiana $¼ to $82 and Phillips Petroleum $⅜ to $60. Standard Oil of California tacked on $¼ at $110¼.

THE AMERICAN SE Market Value Index gained 0.49 to 352.99 in a volume of 1.8m shares.

North Canadian Oils eased $¼ to $14⅜—it will take a fourth-quarter charge of about C$14.5m on the writedown of its investment in Hatleigh Corporation.

Volume leader Husky Oil rose $⅛ to $17⅞ but active Houston Oil and Minerals shed $¼ to $53¼.

Bowmar Instrument gained $⅜ to $7⅞ and Solitron Devices added $1 at $11⅞.

Canada

Markets drifted narrowly lower in light trading on Wednesday, when the Toronto Composite Index lost 5.6 to 2,276.5 and eight of 14 sub-indices retreated.

Oil and Gas issues were mixed, while most Golds were little changed.

Kaps Transport rose 10 cents to $1.30 — shareholders agreed to its purchase of a plant for $6m.

Real Estate and Construction issues were lightly traded and little changed.

Hong Kong

Stock prices closed firmer in moderately active trading on Wednesday, when the Hang Seng Index added 16.54 at 1,462.72.

The market opened firmer, continuing the buying trend from late Tuesday, but toward mid-session profit-taking set in and prices continued steady up to the close.

News that some U.S. banks had cut their Broker Loan rates was discounted as fears of an increase in local interest rates had largely receded.

Operators also discounted the announcement that the local Underground Railway will be extended in a HK$7bn scheme. The news had been largely expected.

Among leaders, Cheung Kong rose 50 cents to HK$32.50, Hong Kong Bank 30 cents to HK$21.40 and Hong Kong Wharf 25 cents to 9.05.

Elsewhere, Carrian Investment moved up 70 cents to HK$9.50 as did China Light to HK$21.70, Sun Hung Kai Securities 5 cents to HK$5.45, and World International 5 cents to HK$4.80.

Tokyo

Share prices rose yesterday by "large" capitals, "low-priced" Blue Chips and Defence-Related issues, but trading was light ahead of New Year holidays.

The market average rose to 7,063.13 with volume at 250m shares.

Steels, Shipbuildings and Heavy Electric Machines gained on buying by Corporative investors in anticipation of easier credit next year.

Defence-Related issues improved on the unstable political situation in Poland, with Shin Meiwa up Y15 to 570, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Y5 to 204 and Kawasaki Heavy Industry Y6 to 193.

Nippon Steel and Kawasaki Steel rose Y3 to Y145 and Y147 respectively, Nippon Kokan Y5 to 145, Hitachi Y4 to 325, Mitsui Shipbuilding Y6 to 184 and Hitachi Shipbuilding Y9 to 177.

Light Electricals and Precisions closed mixed after opening higher. Sony were up Y30 to 3,110 but Victor Japan shed Y20 to 2,700. Fuji Photo added Y7 at Y912 but Canon fell Y6 to 885.

Non Ferrous Metals, Synthetic Fibre Makers and Motors also firmed, but Oils and Foods were lower.

Australia

Stock prices closed firmer in quiet trading on Wednesday following news Chase Manhattan Bank had lowred its Prime rate to 20.5 per cent.

BHP were up 15 cents to A$16.15, despite reporting a fall in oil and steel production for the half-year to Nov. 30.

CSR added 22 cent sat $7.20, Pancontinental 35 cents at $11.75, and ERA 10 cents at $2.28.

In a buoyant Oil sector, Hartogen put on 20 cents to $7.20, as did Santos to $17.50, Woodside 9 cents to $3.10 and Strata 30 cents to $3.50.

Bundaberg Sugar led a generally quiet Industrial sector with a 20 cents rise to $4.65.

Takeover target Dunlop Olympic firmed to $1.30, and bidder North Broken Hill rose 5 cents to $4.00.

Johannesburg

The Stock Market was very quiet on Wednesday, when Golds were mostly firmer in line with the bullion price.

Towards the close of the 40 stocks that had traded, 19 were higher and four lower. Among those to firm were Elsburg 5 cents up at 600, Buffels 150 cents at 5,550 and Randfontein 150 cents at 10,000.

Mining Financials and Metals were very quiet. De Beers rose 5 cents to 1,070.

Industrials were steady, and of the 11 Istocks traded 27 were firmer and 18 lower.

Paris

Share prices were mixed with a higher bias in an almost deserted market yesterday. No special factors were affecting the market and the few transactions were sufficient to move prices. Paris was the only financial centre where securities and currency markets were operating normally.

Motors were easier after news of lower French car production in the first 11 months of 1980.

Sectors to rise included Banks and Insurances, Portfolios, Stores and Foods.

Electricals and Oils were mixed, with Elf-Aquitaine up Frs 10 at 1,335.

In the Foreign sector, Americans, Germans, Japanese and Gold Mines were firm. Oils and Dutch were mixed, while Coppers were easier.

Switzerland

Mostly slightly higher in thin trading on Wednesday.

Credit Suisse Bearer rose 25 to SwFr 2,670 in Banks, while Swiss Volksbank eased to SwFr 1,780.

Nestle Bearer and Alusuisse each improved in Industrials. Baloise and Helvetia were each better in Insurances, as were Derlikon Buehrle in Financials.

Domestic and Foreign Bonds closed little changed in thin volume.

U.S. stocks traded mixed, while Germans were narrowly mixed and Dutch Internationsl little changed except for easier Unilever.

Amgold rose in South African Mining Financials.

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

CANADA

Stock	Dec. 24	Dec. 23
Abitibi	24½	24⅝
Agnico Eagle	19	19
Alcan Alumin	39½	40
Algoma Steel	37⅛	37⅛
Asbestos	29½	29½
Bk Montreal	32½	32⅝
Bk Nova Scotia	33¾	33¾
Basic Resources	12¾	12
Bell Canada	19⅝	19⅝
Bow Valley	21	21½
BP Canada	37¾	36
Brascan A	35⅛	35⅝
Brinco	11	10¾
B. C. Forest	16¼	16½
Cadillac Fairy	23	23½
Camflo Mines	43	43¼
Can Cement	14	13⅞
Can NW Lands	41½	41
Can Packers	33½	33½
Can Perm Mtg	20⅛	20½
Can Trustco	26⅝	26⅝
Can Imp Bank	27⅜	27½
Cdn Inds	34½	34¾
Cdn Pacific	43½	44⅛
Can P. Ent	25⅛	25¼
Cdn Tire	29½	27
Cherokee Res	10	9¾
Chieftain	21½	22
Cominco	71	72
Cons Bathst A	25	25⅛
Coseka Res	25	25¼
Costain	9¾	9½
Daon Devel	12	12
Denison Mines	56	56¼
Dome Mines	108	111
Dome Petroleum	75⅛	76¼
Dom Bridge	21	21¼
Dom Foundries A	41½	41½
Dom Stores	22	21½
Domtar	29	29⅛
Falcon Nickel	102	101½
Genstar	39⅝	39⅝
Gt-West Life	195	195
Gulf Canada	24⅞	24⅞
Gulfstream Res	9⅝	9⅞
Hawk Sid. Can	21¼	21¼
Hollinger Ags. A	46½	46½
Hudson Bay Mng	34¼	34
Hudson's Bay	24½	24⅛
do. Oil & Gas	25¾	26
Husky Oil	20⅛	19⅝
IAC	11⅛	11
Imasco	32¼	32¼
Imp Oil A	34¾	33⅞
Inco	24¼	23¾
Indal	17	17
Interpr. Pipe	16	16⅛
Kaiser Res	53⅝	53⅝
Mac Bloedel	38½	38
Marks & Spencer	10	10
Massey Ferg	4.45	4.40
McIntyre Mines	70	67
Merland Explor	9	9¼
Mitel Corp	20¼	19⅜
Moore Corp	40¾	41
Mountain State	16⅞	16
Nat.Sea Prods A	10	9⅜
Noranda Mines	29¾	29¾
Nthn. Telecom	34¼	34⅛
Oakwood Pet	23¼	23⅛
Omni	4.15	4.30
Pacific Copper	3.75	3.65
Pan can Petrol	96⅛	96
Patino	42	42
Placer Dev	25⅝	26⅛
Power Corp	21	21¼
Quebec Strgn	7½	7½
Ranger Oil	23	24¼
Reed Stenhs A	12	12
Rio Algom	35	35
Royal Bank	59	58⅛
Royal Trustco A	18¾	18⅝
Sceptre Res	17	17
Seagram	72	71½
Shell can Oil	24⅞	24¾
Steel of Can A	37¾	38
Teck B	21½	21¾
Texaco Canada	24¼	24
Thomson News A	21⅞	21⅝
Toronto Dom Bk	33½	33⅝
Transcan Pipe	22⅛	22⅜
Trans Mntn. Oil A	13⅛	12¾
Utd Sisco Mines	23	22½
Walker(Hrm)C.H.	31	30⅞
Warrior Res.	7.00	7.20
Westcoast Trans	14¾	14⅞
Weston (Geo.)	30⅝	30½

AUSTRIA

Dec. 23	Price %	+ or —
Creditanstalt	336	......
Landerbank	336	......
Perlmooser	272	+2
Semperit	103	—2
Steyr Daimler	252	......
Veitscher Mag	274	+6

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS

Mitsubishi Electric raises net earnings

By Our Financial Staff

MITSUBISHI Electric Corporation, the Japanese manufacturer of electric appliances and machinery, increased its consolidated net profit by 7.7 per cent in the first-half, to Y16.39bn ($79m), from Y15.21bn in the six months to September last year.

Sales rose more sharply, by 14.6 per cent to Y645.2bn ($3.1bn).

Sales were said to have increased in all major sectors, with exports gaining 47.7 per cent to Y122.83bn, to account for 19 per cent of total sales.

Sales of electronic and industrial machinery, the largest sector, increased 20.1 per cent to Y205.82bn, helped by the performance of computer equipment and integrated circuits. Heavy machinery sales rose 23.3 per cent to Y159.86bn. Standard electrical machines sales, which include electric equipment for motor vehicles, increased 14.7 per cent to Y119bn.

Consumer products, comprising domestic air conditioners and other seasonal goods, were affected by the cool summer weather, and showed only a 1.5 per cent increase in sales, to Y160.5bn.

Isuzu Motors profits setback

By Our Financial Staff

ISUZU MOTORS, the Japanese *motor manufacturer in which* General Motors of the U.S. has a 24 per cent stake, suffered a 60.8 per cent fall in after-tax profit for the year ended last October to Y4.95bn ($23.9m), at parent company level, from Y12.64bn in the preceding year, on sales up 8.2 per cent to Y687.71bn from Y635.44bn.

The decline resulted from a fall in sales of large trucks and dump trucks, as well as higher material costs and an increased interest burden. The dividend, however, is unchanged, at Y5 a share.

*Isuzu expects that its after-*tax profit for the current year, will recover slightly, to about Y5bn, on sales up about 8 per cent to Y745bn.

Franklin Mint agrees to $206m bid by Warner

BY PAUL BETTS IN NEW YORK

WARNER COMMUNICATIONS, the New York-based film and entertainment group, has made a successful $206m take-over bid for Franklin Mint, the largest private mint in the U.S.

Both companies confirmed over the Christmas holidays that they had signed a definite agreement whereby Franklin Mint would be merged into Warner in an exchange of shares and cash transaction.

The agreement, which sent Franklin Mint share prices leaping up by more than $6 to $25¼ *following the announcement by* the two companies, involves an offer by Warner of $27 a share for each Franklin Mint share or a package consisting of $16 in cash and $11 on market value warrants to acquire Warner *stock*.

The deal surprised the market because Franklin Mint, which was a fast expanding company about 10 years ago, has suffered a reversal of fortunes since 1977. But Franklin has been undergoing a major transformation during the past few years, which has seen the company diversify increasingly into the jewellery, porcelain, books and collectors' records business, as well as *into the retail store sector.*

Only four years ago, about 80 per cent of the company's revenues came from minted coins and medallions—which following a period of remarkable growth suffered a slump after 1977. Since then, the company's minted coins business has contributed less and less to revenues and at present these only account for about 20 per cent of total revenues.

Mr. Steven Ross, Warner's chairman, explained his company's reasons for taking over Franklin Mint by remarking *that many businesses of the two* were "highly compatible" with many of Warner's subsidiaries. In particular, he said, the two companies would be able to combine their expertise in marketing.

In Warner's case, the large entertainment concern is now seeking to enhance its presence in the cable television business and sees this as another way to sell Franklin Mint products. *Moreover, Warner appears to* have high regard for Franklin Mint's experience in direct sales with a 2m mailing list.

As for Franklin Mint, Mr. Charles Andes, the company's chairman, claimed that his company and its shareholders "will be well served by the merger." He added that Warner's management philosophy was *totally* compatible with his company's and he claimed the combination would boost Franklin Mint's future growth opportunities.

For the first nine months of this year, Franklin Mint reported earnings of *$13.6m on* sales of $245.7m. Warner's net income in the same period totalled $92.5m on revenues of $1.4bn.

The merger is expected to be completed by early spring.

Chrysler in Japanese accord

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, the Japanese motor vehicle manufacturer, which builds Dodge Colts and *Plymouth Champs for Chrysler* Corporation, said yesterday that it intends to establish a marketing subsidiary in the U.S. to avoid legal complications arising in the event of a Chrysler bankruptcy.

Chrysler, it said, agreed to the plan during renegotiation of the companies' marketing arrangement, under which Chrysler sold about 150,000 Colts and Champs this year in the U.S.

Mitsubishi said that the establishment of a U.S. subsidiary would give it the right to claim ownership of Colts and Champs held, but not paid for, by Chrysler in case the U.S. car maker failed to recover from its financial problems.

The establishment of the subsidiary required the agreement of the U.S. Government because the Government was overseeing the Chrysler support plan under which Chrysler had drawn $800m of a possible $1.5bn in Government-guaranteed loans.

● The State of Michigan has told Chrysler to buy workers' compensation insurance coverage in 1981.

The coverage could cost the motor group from $5m to $100m a year, according to estimates by the State Labour Department's Bureau of Worker Disability Compensation.

The bureau regulates the insurance that employers are required to carry against worker claims for *on-the-job* injuries.

AP-DJ

Funding boost for Snia

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE RECOVERY programme for Snia Viscosa, the troubled Italian fibres group, has been boosted by the response to the *capital increase recently* launched on the Milan Bourse, lifting Snia's equity to L136bn ($145m) from L32bn.

The consortium of banks which underwrote the operation, is now unlikely to have to dip into its own pockets to carry out the increase, following subscription already by private shareholders of about L91bn.

As a result, nearly 40 per cent of Snia's equity will be in the combined hands of the "consortium" group of private *companies which had moved to* rescue Snia, and of Montedison, the Milan chemicals group *which used to be the dominant* shareholder.

Singapore Retailer ahead

By Georgie Lee in Singapore

METRO HOLDINGS, the Singapore retailing group, has reported a 67 per cent rise in group pre-tax profit to S$3.98m (US$1.9m) for the half-year ended September. Group turn*over rose by 28 per cent to* S$83.4m (US$39.7m).

Metro directors gave no reasons for the sharp improvement.

Homestake in uranium action settlement

By Kenneth Marston, Mining Editor

WESTINGHOUSE Electric Corporation of the U.S. has resolved its uranium litigation with Homestake Mining, the U.S. company in Australia. This includes the dismissal of Homestake from the *"uranium cartel" suit filed* by Westinghouse against 29 U.S. and foreign uranium producers.

Under the settlement, Homestake will pay Westinghouse $2m cash within 30 days and will deliver to Westinghouse 450,000 lb of uranium oxide in March 1981, *at a price of $14 per pound.* That compares with present spot prices of uranium of just under $30 per pound.

Whether this heralds further moves in the settlement of the long-standing legal actions by Westinghouse against its suppliers of uranium remains to be seen. But, now that uranium is in over-supply throughout the world, the door to such settlements does appear to be open.

One defendant, Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, however, has maintained that the U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over the UK company and has refused to appear before them. This stance was supported by a Lords judgment three years ago.

In the RTZ half-yearly results announced in September this year the group stated that it denied liability in the US. anti-trust actions and added: "Having regard to the relevant facts and legal advice received, RTZ does not consider that the resolution of these proceedings will adversely affect the group to a significant extent."

Go-ahead for NZ smelter

By Dai Hayward in Wellington

THE New Zealand Government has approved a site for a second aluminum smelter near Dunedin. It will be built by a consortium of Fletcher Aluminum of New Zealand, Swiss Aluminum Australia, and Gove Alumina.

The smelter will cost NZ$650m (US$618m), construction will start late next year.

WESTERN AIRLINES MERGER

UNC enters the arena

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

UNC RSOURCS, a U.S. holding company with interests in uranium and coal, has joined in the bidding for Western Airlines, the Californian carrier, with a surprise offer valued at between $114m and $211m.

In a merger proposal to Western Airlines, UNC has *offered to pay 50 per cent more* than the average market price for Western stock over the last six months. The airline at present has a total of 18.2m shares outstanding and its stock price has ranged between $6 and $11¼ in the past year.

The proposal comes as a surprise because Western Airlines had apparently reached a tentative agreement to merge with another Californian carrier, Continental. This plan marks the second time the two airlines have attempted to merge their operations, but the first attempt was blocked on anti-trust grounds.

However, both companies, which have been hit by the slump in domestic passenger traffic and the price war between U.S. airlines, were expected this time round to be granted approval by the authorities for the merger proposal.

UNC's decision to bid for the Californian airline reflects the company's attempts to diversify and seek other ways of reducing its dependence on uranium operations, which have been depressed in recent months. Nonetheless, UNC's choice of Western as a takeover candidate surprised Wall Street analysts.

Western and Continental both claimed at this stage the UNC offer would not affect their present talks to merge their operations and businesses.

Kennecott wins a round

BY OUR NEW YORK STAFF

WALL STREET has been kept on edge by the latest twists in the bitter battle for control of Curtiss-Wright, the U.S. aerospace and industrial components company, despite the Christmas *holidays*.

Curtiss-Wright's attempt to block a hostile take-over bid by Kennecott, the largest U.S. copper producer, was frustrated yesterday when a New York judge denied Curtiss-Wright's *request for a preliminary injunc*tion against Kennecott's cash tender offer for about 49 per cent of Curtiss.

But although Kennecott is now free to press ahead with its $342m take-over bid, the fight is by no means over.

Another company, Interpace, a manufacturer of reinforced concrete pipes for the building *sector, is also bidding for* Curtiss-Wright while Tamco, a Chicago real estate concern, has offered to buy a 14.3 per cent block of Kennecott shares currently held by Curtiss-Wright.

The battle effectively centres *on a conflict between Mr. Roland* Berner, chairman of Curtiss-Wright and also a director of Kennecott, and Mr. Thomas Barrow, Kennecott's chief executive. Kennecott has for some time sought to counter Mr. Berner's opposition by attempting to regain control of the 14.3 per cent stock in Kennecott which Curtiss-Wright holds at *present*.

● Curtiss-Wright's board has authorised a tender offer "to commence as soon as practicable" for up to 1m shares of its common stock at $44 per share in cash. It also authorised *an increase in the tender offer* to purchase an additional 2.1m shares at the same price subject to necessary consent by its lenders.

Strong advance by New Straits Times group

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

NEW STRAITS Times Press *(NST), Malaysia's largest news*paper group, has reported that pre-tax profits for the year ended September 1980 rose by 50 per cent to 26.3m ringgit ($12.3m). Turnover rose by 24 per cent to 89m ringgit ($41.5m).

Because of a higher tax charge, net earnings totalled 12.6m ringgit, a 41 per cent increase. Despite the excellent results, the final dividend is maintained at 25 per cent, making 40 per cent for the year.

NST, which publishes the New Straits Times, Malay Mail and the Malay language daily, *Berita Harian*, and the *Sunday* editions, attributed its record earnings to growth in advertis*ing and circulation revenues, up* 42 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Its high level of newsprint stocks also helped the group to weather the costs of newsprint, which rose by 35 per cent in the year.

Foreign growth for Bawag

By Paul Lendvai in Vienna

AUSTRIAN union bank, Bawag, reports a further expansion of its foreign business. Mr. Walter Floettl, director-general and chairman, revealed that foreign business last year accounted for one-third of the group balance sheet, which at Sch 73.9bn ($5.3bn), was 16 per cent up on 1979.

Bawag trades heavily with Comecon countries and last year the East bloc accounted *for half of foreign loans*

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Slow trading in pre-holiday markets

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

WITH ONLY two-and-a-half days' trading before the Christmas break London's commodity *markets never really got off the* ground this week. Dealing was confined for the most part to pre-holiday booksquaring.

All the leading soft (non-metal) markets edged higher but with the exception of copper *base metal quotations lost* ground.

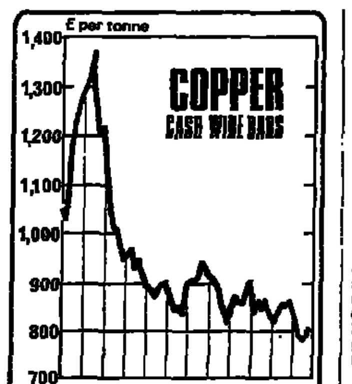
The biggest proportionate rise was for sugar with the March position on the London futures market ending £11.125 up at £321.25 despite losing *£2.575 on Wednesday. This* represented a continuation of last week's reaction against the sustained sell-off which had trimmed values to 7-month lows earlier this month.

The rise was also aided by news of a sizeable Peruvian purchase at the weekend, some dealers said. At this week's EEC *tender export licences were* granted on 61,250 tonnes of white sugar, up from 57,400 tonnes last week. But this had little impact on market sentiment.

A £22 rise in the March *quotation on the London coffee* futures market was attributed to expectations of increased roaster buying in the new year. Dealers also reported that sellers were "reserved" ahead of the break.

Price fixing purchases against *existing Brazilian sales con*tracts were quoted as the main influence behind the £14 rise in March cocoa futures but Wednesday's £4 advance was put down to booksquaring.

A forecast issued by London



Merchants Gill and Duffus last weekend that cocoa production would exceed consumption in *the 1980-81* season by about 92,000 tonnes (on top of an aggregate surplus of 300,000 *tonnes over the past three* seasons) had little effect on prices. Dealers noted that other forecasters had put the surplus higher at about 100,000 tonnes.

In Yaounde on Wednesday the Cameroun Marketing Board said 1980-81 main crop cocoa purchases up to December 22 amounted to 64,294 tonnes, down from 78,687 tonnes at the same time last year.

The president of the Indonesian Rubber Producers' Federation forecast last weekend that 1981 rubber consumption would total about 4.05m tonnes *against output of only 4m.* But this did little to lift prices. On the London futures market the February position gained only 1.95p on the week to 61.35p a kilo and on the physical market the RSS No. 1 spot quotation *fell 0.5p to 57p a kilo.*

Expectations of cuts in U.S. prime rates encouraged a modest rise in copper values. The cash wirebars price gained £2.75. to £805.75 a tonne on Wednesday to end 7.25 up on balance.

But tin was lower with cash standard metal losing £75 alto*gether at £6.235 a tonne.* Dealers put this down to stronger sterling and expectations of a rise in London Metal Exchange warehouse stocks.

Cash lead ended £3.75 down at £312.75 a tonne while cash zinc lost £3 to £325.5 a tonne. Both markets were described by dealers as "featureless."

Silver prices gained ground aided by the rise in gold. The spot bullion quotation advanced *34.95p on the week* to 694.15 a troy ounce but the spot position on the London Metal Exchange ended on a downturn losing 10p on Wednesday a troy ounce to 692p for a net rise of 19p.

Influential London trade house Wallace Brothers Commodities said in its latest quarterly silver report that *current chart patterns indi*cated a possible low of 450p an ounce in the first half of next year if U.S. interest rates do not fall. But it noted that the rates are showing signs of peaking and forecast that they would recede *as a significant influence* in 1981.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Ch'nge on week	Year ago	1980 High	1980 Low
METALS					
Aluminium	£810/815	—	£760/770	£710/815	£760/70
Free Markets c.i.f.	$1430/1470	—	$1750/1800	$2180/2200	$1490/1450
Antimony					
Free Market 99.6%	$3200/3260	—	$3200/3250	$3,435	$3160/3200
Copper Cash Wire Bars	£805.75	+7.25	£1,025.5	£1,372	£763.5
3 months Do. Do.	£826.5	+14.25	£1,011.5	£1,376.5	£781.5
Cash Cathodes	£786.5	+10	£974.5	£1,316	£747
3 months Do.	£806.5	+12.5	£991	£1,343.5	£763.5
Gold per oz.	$604.5	+20	$478	$835	$473
Lead Cash	£312.75	−3.75	£536	£679	£299.5
3 months	£324.25	−2	£518.5	£471.5	£308.75
Nickel	£3,216*	—	£3,260.17	£3,477	£3,115
Free Market c.i.f. lb.	275/295c	—	270/310c	315/345	265/295c
Platinum per oz.	£202	—	£195	£202	£282.50
Free Market per oz	£250.0	−1	£293.20	£466.6	£230
Quicksilver (76lbs.)	$360/370	—	$375/380	$418/423	$360/370
Silver per oz.	694.15p	+34.95	1067.30p	2,165.05p	467.80p
3 months per oz.	717.65p	+37.95	1102.80p	2,185.05p	483.3p
Tin cash	£6,235	−75	£7,655	£8,350	£6,155
3 months.	£6,358.5	−47.5	£7,355	£8,385	£6,295
Tungsten Ind.	$141.97	—	$137.75	£148.21	$137.75
Wolfram (22.04 lb)	$140/143	—	$129.5/134	$151/154	$128.50/134
Zinc cash	£325.5	−3	£343.5	£400	£282
3 months.	£337.5	−2.75	£355.25	£415	£292.25
Producers	$823	—	$780	$825	$780
GRAINS					
Barley					
Home Futures	£98.80	−0.45	£97.40	£101.55	£89.95
Maize					
French	:	—	£120	£122.5	£110.50
WHEAT					
No. 1 Red Spring	:	—	:	:	:
Am. Hard Winter	£106.25w	−2	£106	£112.5	£91.0
Eng. Milling (new crop)	:	—	:	:	:
SPICES					
Cloves (g)	£4,100z	—	£4,000	£4,175	£3,750
Pepper, white	$2,175z	—	$2,650	$2,825	$2,125
„ black	$1,625	—	$1,850	$2,000	$1,575
OILS					
Coconut (Philipines)	$610z	—	$875	$925	$560
Groundnut 5%	:	—	:	£457	:
Linseed, Crude	£460	—	£395	$480	£338
Palm Malayan	$622.5w	—	$666	$725	$475
SEEDS					
Copra (Philipines)	$420	—	$572.5	$610	$365
Soyabeans (U.S.)	$330x	+9	$291.9	$381	$260
OTHER COMMODITIES					
Cocoa Shipment	£979	+12	£1,579	£1,548	£952
Cocoa Futures Mar.	£903.5	+12	£1,518.5	£1,513.5	£874.5
Coffee Futures Mar.	£1,054	+22	£1,659	£1,764.5	£959.5
Cotton Index	99.90c	+1.05	82.70c	103.8c	83c
Des Coconut	£650	—	£710	£740	£640
Jute LJ ABW C grade	£221z	—	£226	£232	£187
Rubber kilo	67p	−0.5	64.50p	90p	55.50
Sago Pearl	£199z	—	£216	£216	£197
Sisal No. 3 L	$780	—	$885	$885	$780
Sugar (Raw)	£307	+7	£178	£410	£184
Tapioca No. 1	£212z	—	£211	£226	£202
Tea (quality) kilo	125p	—	150p	150p	132p
„ (plain) kilo	54p	—	57p	73p	54p
Wooltops 64s Warp	297pkilo	—	276p	308p kilo	276p kilo

Unquoted. (g) Madagascar. (x) Jan. (t) Dec (y) Feb./March. (z) Dec.-Jan. (w) Feb. *Nominal.

MARKET REPORTS

BASE METALS

COPPER—Firmer in morning only trading on the London Metal Exchange. Demand for cash metal coupled with the general firmness of precious metals saw forward metal open at £822 and *moved ahead to close the kerb at £827.* Turnover 13,200 tonnes.

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	805.5-6	+8.5	—	+2.75
3 months	826.7	9.25	—	+5.75
Settlem't	806	+8.5	—	
Cathodes				
Cash	786-7	+11.5	—	+5.5
3 months	806-7	+10	802-3	+5.5
Settlem't	787	+11	—	+4
U.S. Prod			*82-91.25	......

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in morning only trading cash wire*bars traded at £805, three months £825,* 24, 24.5, 24, 23, 24, 23.5, 24, 25, 25.5, 26. Cathodes, three months £806, 7. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £826, 27.

TIN—Little changed in subdued trading which saw three months close the kerb at £6,355. Turnover 480 tonnes.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade	£	£	£	£
Cash	6230-40	+4	—	......
3 months	6352-5	−9	—	......
Settlem't	6232	−75	—	......
Standard	6240	+8		
Cash	6230-40	+4	—	......
3 months	6352-5	−9	6360-3	−21
Settlem't	6240	+8	—	......
Straits E.	$1930	−1	—	−8
New York	—	......		

Morning: Standard, three months £6,345, 50, 55.

LEAD—Marginally easier in quiet and *routine* trading with forward metal dipping to £322 before rallying to close the kerb at £325. Turnover 4,300 tonnes.

LEAD	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	312.5-3	−.75	—	−1.75
3 months	324-.5	−1	—	−1.25
S'ment	313	−1		......
U.S. Spot	—	......	*39-43	......

Morning: Cash £313.5, three months £323, 24, 24.5, 24. Kerb: Three months £324, 25.

ZINC—Drifted as forward metal eased from £340 to close the kerb at £336. Turnover 4,700 tonnes.

ZINC	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	325-6	−2.5	—	—
3 months	337-8	−3	—	−1.75
S'ment	326	−2.5	—	......
Primw'ts	—	......	*41.5	......

Morning: Three months £339.5, 39, 38

ALUMINIUM—Edged higher with forward metal finally quoted at £636.5 on the morning kerb. Turnover 2,950 tonnes.

Alumin'm	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffici'l	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Spot	614-6	+7.5	—	+5.5
3 months	636-7	+7	—	+5

Morning: Three months £634, 35, 36, 36.5, 37.

NICKEL—Little changed for three months although good demand for cash lifted that price to £2,760 on the kerb. Turnover 72 tonnes.

NICKEL	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unoffici'l	+ or —
Spot	2750-70	+65	—	+60
3 months	2705-15	+7.5	—	−2.5

** Cents per pound. ‡ $M per picul.*
† On previous unofficial close.

Morning: Three months £2,705.

Market now closed re-opens Monday *December 29.*

SILVER

LME—Turnover 120 (311) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: three months 715, 22, 24, 25, 20, 18, 20, 21, 15. Kerb: untraded.

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing price	+ or —	L.M.E. p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
Spot	694.15p	+15.1	692.0p	−10
3 months	717.65p	+15.0	715.5p	−10.5
6 months	735.0p	+12.5	—	......
12 months	780.0p	+8.45	—	......

Silver was fixed 13.1p an ounce higher for spot delivery in the London bullion market yesterday at 694.15p. U.S. equivalents of the fixing levels *were: spot $16.5, up 35.2c; three-month* $17.238, up 29.8c; six-month $17.662, up 37.4c; and 12-month $18.743, up 27.7c. The metal opened at 685p-702p ($16.3-$16.7), and closed at 692p-709p ($16.4-$16.8).

COCOA

Cocoa futures closed at midday on Christmas Eve with marginal gains having traded quietly throughout the morning. Physical business was scare with both producers and consumers withdrawn from current levels, reports Gill and Duffus.

COCOA	Yesterd'ys Close	+ or —	Business Done
Dec.	872-875	+6.5	875-871
March	903-904	+4.0	905-901
May	924-925	+5.0	925-921
July	943-944	+4.0	947-942
Sept.	961-962	+1.0	965-964
Dec.	986-990	+3.5	991-986
March	1010-20	+7.0	1012-10

Sales: 995 (1,962) lots of 10 tonnes.

ICO Futures: Daily price for December 22. 95.90 (95.45): 10-day average

Sales: 1,070 (995) lots of 10 tonnes.

ICO Futures: Daily price for December 23. 96.72 (95.90): 10-day average 94.90 (94.65): 15-day average 95.12 (95.10).

COFFEE

The London Robusta market opened slightly better than expected but with only a morning session to contend with trading was comparatively subdued and price ranges were noticeably *smal in poor volume, reports Drexel* Burnham Lambert.

COFFEE	yesterdays Close	+ or —	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
January	1010-15	+5.0	1015-12
March	1033-35	+3.0	1040-35
May	1040-42	+4.0	1044-40
July	1046-47	+2.0	1048-46
Sept	1051-52	−0.5	1055-52
Nov.	1053-54	−1.0	1056-55
Jan.	1050-65	−2.5	—

Sales: 438 (1,523) lots of 5 tonnes.

ICO Indicator prices for December 23 (U.S. cents per pound). Other Mild Arabicas 123.67 (123.00). Robustas ICA 1976 120.25 (118.88). ICA 1968 120.50 (119.13). Unwashed Arabicas 215.00 (214.00). Comp. daily ICA 1968 154.11 (153.21).

GRAINS

WHEAT M'nth	Yesterday close	+ or —	BARLEY Yesterday close	+ or —
Jan.	103.00	+0.10	94.80	+0.05
Mar.	107.05	−0.10	98.80	......
May	111.25	−0.05	102.75	−0.05
July	115.40	−0.05	—	......
Sept.	100.90	......	95.35	......
Nov.	104.85	......	100.20	......

Business done—Wheat: Jan. 103.10-103.10, March 107.10-107.00, May 111.30-111.30, July, Sept., Nov. no trade. Sales 13 lots of 100 tonnes. Barley: Jan. 94.80-94.40, March 98.80-98.45, May 102.75-102.55, July, Sept., Nov., no trade. Sales 88 lots of 100 tonnes.

LONDON GRAINS—Wheat: U.S. Dark Northern Spring No 2 14 per cent Feb. 110.50, March 111 transhipment east coast sellers. U.S. Hard Winter 13½ per cent Feb. 106.25, March 107 transhipment east coast sellers. English Feed fob April-June 115.50, east coast sellers. Maize: S. African Yellow Jan.-Feb. 92.00 seller. Barley: English Feed fob April-June 107 east coast sellers. Rest unquoted.

RUBBER

The London physical market opened unchanged with little interest throughout the day, closing on a quiet note. Lewis and Peat reported a fob January price for No. 1 RSS in Kuala Lumpur of 303.5 (302.5) cents a kilogramme and SMR 20 at 257 (256) cents.

No. 1 R.S.S.	Yest'day close	Previous Close	Business Done
Feb	59.40-59.50	58.20-58.00	—
Mar.	61.20-61.50	—	—
Apr-Jne	63.80-65.90	63.50-63.60	64.00-63.70
Jly-Sept	67.10-67.20	66.90-67.00	67.20-67.10
Oct-Dec	70.30-70.40	70.00-70.10	70.20
Jan-Mar	73.40-73.50	73.10-73.20	73.50-73.20
Apl-Jne	76.50-76.80	76.20-76.50	—
Jly-Sept	79.50-80.00	79.50-79.60	—
Oct-Dec	82.60-82.70	—	82.70

Sales: 44 (467) at 15 tonnes, none at 5 tonnes. Physical closing prices (buyer) were: Spot 57.00p (56.50p). Feb. 62.00p (same). March 62.75p (same).

SOYABEAN MEAL

	Yest'rday Close	+ or —	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
February	151.00-52.0	+1.25	152.00-51.00
April	157.00-57.6	+0.90	157.20-56.80
June	139.00-40.6	+1.00	—
August	141.00-42.0	+0.75	—
October	130.50-31.2	+0.60	—
December	131.00-31.5	+0.25	—
February	131.00-34.0	+0.50	—

Sales: 45 (34) lots of 100 tonnes.

SUGAR

No. 4 Contract	Yest'rdays Close	Previous close	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
Jan	315.50-19.50	317.00-21.00	317.00
Mch.	320.00-22.50	323.75-23.80	324.50-18.00
May	318.75-19.00	319.50-20.00	320.00-14.00
Aug.	305.00-08.00	307.75-08.50	307.00-02.00
Oct.	289.00-91.00	289.75-90.25	289.50-85.00
Jan	265.00-69.00	264.50-66.00	266.00
March	258.00-66.00	260.00-65.00	261.00

Sales: 1,004 (4,105) lots of 50 tonnes.

Tate and Lyle ex-refinery price for granulated basis white sugar was *£342.5 (same) a tonne for home trade* and £395.50 (£398.00) for export.

International Sugar Agreement (U.S. cents per pound, fob and stowed Caribbean port). Prices for Dec. 23: Daily price 30.83 (same): 15-day average 28.54 (28.44).

LONDON DAILY PRICE (raw sugar) £307.00 (£310.00) a tonne cif for Dec.-Jan.-Feb. shipments. White sugar daily price was £332.00 (same).

WOOL FUTURES

SYDNEY GREASY WOOL—Close (in order buyer, seller, business, sales). Australian cents per kilo. March 474.5, *476.0, 474.5-473.5, 23; May 490.5, 491.0,* 491.0-489.0, 60; July 506.5, 508.0, 507.0-505.0, 23; Oct. 506.5, 508.0, 506.5-505.5, 15; Dec. 510.0, 510.5, 510.5-510.0, 12; March 514.0, 520.0, untraded; May 521.0, 527.0, untraded. Sales. 133.

LONDON NEW ZEALAND CROSSBREDS—Close (in order buyer, seller, business, sales). New Zealand cents per kilo. Dec. 350, 370, nil, nil; Jan. 349, 358, nil, nil; March 355, 360, nil, nil; May 356, 362, 361-358, 7; Aug. 370, 375, nil, nil; Oct. 372, 377, nil, nil; Dec. 376, 381, nil, nil; Jan. 377, 382, nil, nil; March 380, 386, nil, nil; May 382, 388, nil, nil. Sales 7.

COTTON

COTTON—Liverpool. No spot or *shipment sales were recorded on* Christmas Eve, leaving the total for the week at 152 tonnes, against 121 tonnes in the preceding week, reports F. W. Tattersalls. Renewed uncertainty about prospects, as well as the usual reluctance of buyers to operate before the holiday, reduced the offtake and business was very limited.

MEAT/VEGETABLES

Covent Garden and Smithfield—no *prices available today due Christmas* holiday.

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK Dec. 24

THE ENTIRE livestock complex was limit down or sharply lower in reaction to a bearish pig crop report. Grains and soyabeans were also lower on the bearish interpretation of the winter wheat acreage report. Precious metals and copper were mixed on profit taking *and a pause in the interest rate decline.* Profit-taking was the feature in sugar. Roaster buying provided moderate support for coffee, while cocoa gained its meagre advance from a lack of origin selling. Cotton was moderately higher on continued good export inquiries, reported Heinold.

††Cocoa—March 2070 (2040). May *2105 (2078), July 2138, Sept. 2180,* Dec. 2235, March 2285, May —. Sales: 800.

Coffee—"C" Contract: March 128.00-128.25 (126.06). May 128.50-128.75 (127.00). July 128.50. Sept 129.25-129.40. Dec. 129.00-129.70. March 128.00-129.70. May 129.00-129.70. Sales: 1,285.

Copper—*Dec 86.80 (85.40).* Jan 86.65 (85.60). Feb 88.15. March 89.40-89.70. May 91.80-92.00. July 94.90. Sept. 95.40. Dec. 97.90. Jan 98.60. *March* 100.00. May 101.40. July 102.80. Sept. 104.20 Sales. 3,300

*Gold—Dec 606.5 (605.6). Jan 608.5 (608.5). Feb. 616.5-618.0. April 634.5-636.0. June 652.5-653.0 Aug 668.5. Oct 684.9. Dec 701.2. Feb 717.5. April 733.6. June 749.7. Aug 765.7. Oct 781.7 Sales: 28,000

Orange Juice—Jan. 83.95 (83.60). *March 86.80-86.90 (86.30).* May 89.00-89.10. July 91.30-91.50 Sept. 93.65-94.00. Nov. 95.00. Jan 96.00-96.30. March 97.10-97.50. May 98.10-98.60. Sales: 750.

*Platinum—Dec 586.0 (590.0). Jan 584.0-585.5 (591.5) April 611.0. July 636.0. Oct. 661.0. Jan. 686.5. Sales: 552.

Potatoes (round whites)—March 135.8-136.3 (138.4). April 162.7-163.1 (164.8). Nov. 88.0-88.6 Sales: 822.

¶Silver—Dec. 1655.0 (1665.0). Jan 1661.0 (1665.0). Feb. 1687.0. March 1710.0-1715.0. May 1755.0-1762.0. July 180.15. Sept 1845.0. Dec 1911.5. Jan. 1833.0. March 1975.5. May 2018.0 July 2065.0. Sept. 2103.0. Sales: 3,000 *Handy and Harman bullion spot* 1640.0 (1650.0).

Sugar No. 11: Jan. 31.00-31.20 (31.75). March 31.60 (32.24). May 31.15-31.20. July 30.90. Sept 29.05-29.15. Oct. 28.25. Jan. 25.06 March 25.50. May 25.20-25.50 Sales: 3,551.

Tin—678.0-693.0 (679.0-681.0).

CHICAGO, Dec. 24

Lard—Chicago loose 22.00 (21.75)

Chicago Imm Gold—Jan. 611.5 (609.0) March 627.5-629.0 (625.2). April 636.5. June 653.0-655.0. July 662.2. Sept 678.5. Oct 686.5. Nov. —. *Dec* 703.0. Jan. 711.0.

Live Cattle—Jan 65.30 (66.10). Feb. 67.40-67.30 (68.05). April 69.40-69.30. June 71.20-71.10. Aug 71.22. Oct. 70.05. Dec. 70.85. Feb. —

Live Hogs—Feb. 50.07 (51.57). April 52.37 (53.87). June 56.52. July 57.62. Aug. 57.27. Oct. 55.65. Dec. 57.35. Feb. 60.00. April 60.00

‡‡Maize—March 377½-377¼ (381½). May 384-383¾ (388). July 382¼-382½. Sept. 371¾-372. Dec. 361-361½. March 370½

Pork Bellies—Feb 60.57 (62.57). March 61.52 (63.52). May 64.05. July 66.75 Aug 66.40

Silver—Dec 165.50 (1655.0). Jan. 1669.5 (1660.0). Feb 1685.0-1690.0). April 1722.0. June 1780.0. Aug. 1819.0. Oct 1862.0 Dec. 1905.0 Feb 1948.0. April 1991.0. June 2034.0. Aug 2077.0. Oct 2120.0 April —.

†Soyabeans—Jan 787½-788 (795). March 821-819 (830½). May 847½-847. July 862½-865 Aug 858½-860. Sept. 837 Nov 819½ Jan. 836½

‖Soyabean Meal—Jan 232.8-233.2 (236.0). March 242.5-243.0 (244.8). May 250.0-250.5. July 254.0-254.5. Aug 254.0-255.0. Sept 247.0 Oct 226.5. Dec 225.8. Jan 236.0-240.0 March —

Soyabean Oil—Jan 24.55-24.75 (24.97). March 25.55-25.60 (25.78). May 26.25-26.20. July 26.95-27.00. Aug. 27.00-27.05 Sept 27.10. Oct. 26.90-27.25 Dec 26.90. Jan 26.90. Jan 26.90-26.95 *March* —

*Wheat—March 492-491½ (497½) May 489½ (494½) July 471. Sept. 491-481½. Dec 498 March —

WINNIPEG Dec 24

§Barley—Dec. 157.00 (157.00) March 161.50 (161.30) May 163.50. July 165.00 Oct 166.10

§Wheat—SCWRS 13.5 per cent protein content cif St Lawrence 280.20 (same).

All cents per pound ex-warehouse unless otherwise stated. * $ per troy ounce ¶ Cents per troy ounce ‡‡ Cents per 56-lb bushel † Cents per 60-lb bushel ‖ $ per short ton (2,000 lbs) § $Can. per metric ton §§ $ per 1,000 sq feet ‡ Cents per dozen ††$ per metric ton

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

Dec. 24	Dec. 23	Month ago	Year ago
263.19	263.37	269.79	—

(Base: July 1, 1952=100)

MOODY'S

Dec. 24	Dec. 23	Month ago	Year ago
1241.3	1240.8	—	—

(December 31 1931=100)

DOW JONES

Dow Jones	Dec. 24	Dec. 23	Month ago	Year ago
Spot	444.14	443.75	—	—
Fut'rs	467.08	465.99	—	—

(Average 1924-25-26=100)

REUTERS

Dec. 24	Dec. 23	M'nth ago	Year ago
1732.9	1731.5	1756.9	—

(Base: September 18, 1931=100)

Scouts set priorities

THE SCOUT Association, with a record membership of 641,281, has set three priorities for the 1980s.

They are in development in areas where youth facilities are few, fund-raising to meet rising cost, and adult recruitment to maintain leadership standards.

To these in 1981 will be added problems *of unemployment*, and The Scout Association is already involved in several *youth* opportunities programmes.

Engineering fellowships

SIR MICHAEL EDWARDES, chairman of BL, and Sir *Denis Rooke*, CBE, chairman of the British Gas Corporation, have accepted honorary fellowships of the 74,000-strong Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

The awards were made by the Council of the Institution in recognition of their outstanding contribution *to the engineering* industry.

UK NEWS

Wool textile group finds answer to waste disposal problem

BY RHYS DAVID

ILLINGWORTH MORRIS, the wool textile group, believes it may have found a solution to one of the problems facing the Yorkshire industry — disposing of effluent, without incurring high costs.

The Water Authorities imposed heavy costs for handling pollution, created when raw wool is cleaned.

The industry has warned that lower, and in some cases non-existent, charges for effluent disposal on the Continent are endangering the survival of wool scouring in the UK. The industry fears that if the cleaning process is phased out, other wool textile processes may become uneconomic.

The Government, and the previous Labour Government rejected appeals for temporary financial aid of up to £750,000 for scouring firms until there were signs that companies throughout Europe were operating on an equal competitive basis.

The working party, which made the request two years ago, had shown that, while charges in France and Germany for weak discharges from mills were comparable with the UK's, those for heavy discharges such as arise when oils, sand and other materials are washed out of wool, were much higher in Yorkshire. In France, the biggest wool scourer in Europe, the charges were only about 40 per cent of those in the UK, and in Belgium and Italy scourers were not paying any charges at all.

The solution advocated by the Department of Industry was for Yorkshire producers to look at new methods of scouring or to move their plants to coastal sites so they could discharge their effluent into the sea. But high costs ruled out this plan, Mr. Donald Hanson, chairman of Illingworth Morris pointed out yesterday. IM, which is Britain's biggest wool textile producer, with annual sales of more than £100m, lost £1.5m in the first six months of its current year and is engaged in a major rationalisation of its activity to bring capacity into line with reduced demand.

Now it is adopting a water treatment process, used in the chemical industry, which can be adapted to existing scouring systems. The system, which will be installed early next year at the Fair Weather Green plant in Bradford, was designed by a Belgian company, Wanson. According to IM, tests suggest the effluent disposal problem should be applicable to wool.

Under the new process, the heavily polluted water, which until now has been discharged into the sewers, will be filtered to produce a sludge, allowing clean water to be reintroduced, after re-heating, back into the scouring system. Savings will accrue from lower water usage and from reduced water heating as well as the reduction in effluent charges.

The resulting sludge will be transported as a dried out cake to the Humber estuary for dumping. The company later hopes to build its own combustion furnace to burn the waste material.

The total cost of a complete system is estimated by IM at around £400,000. Given the likely movement of effluent charges over the next few years, IM reckons it would pay for itself i none year. The company will be starting with the Wanson filtration system on its own and will be leasing it from the manufacturers while its suitability is tested. Discussions have been held with ministers over the new system and the company is hoping grants will be available towards any capital expenditure.

Textiles industry to discuss recession

By Rhys David

THE British Textile Confederation (BTC) is to hold a special conference in Harrogate in March to examine ways in which the industry should prepare itself for the lifting of recession.

The industry's failure in the past to take advantage of periods of higher demand — partly because of the loss of capacity during a downturn — has for a long time been recognised as a major contributor to the pattern of relentless decline.

Thus in 1978 when a sharp rise in consumer spending on clothing took place the UK textile industry was unable to supply the fabrics in demand and imports from other EEC countries filled the gap at a time when British cloth production was falling.

Mr. Ian McArthur, director of the BTC, said yesterday the conference, which will not be marketed overseas, would try to show how companies could sharpen their competitive edge to take advantage of the opportunities that would be available.

Speakers at the two-day event will include government ministers Lord Trenchard and Mr. Cecil Parkinson from the Departments of Industry and Trade respectively, Mr. Christopher Tugendhat, EEC Budget Commissioner, and Mr. D. F. Lomax, chief economic advisor to the National Westminster Bank, all of whom will deal with various aspects of the political and economic background against which textiles have to operate.

Industry themes will be discussed by Mr. Stuart Hollander, of managements consultants Kurt Salmon Associated, Mr. Barry Reed of Austin Reed, Mr. Brian McMeekin of Pretty Polly, Mr. Marc Santens, a former president of comitextil, Dr. Philip Smith of the Shirley Institute and Mr. Alec Smith of the National Union of Tailors and Garment workers.

The industry is ending its worst year ever in the UK in which 100,000 jobs have been lost, still very uncertain as to the timing of any upturns and apprehensive over the posture likely to be adopted by EEC-member governments and the commission for the forthcoming talks on a third stage of the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

Some encouragement is being drawn, however, from the decision earlier this month by the EEC Council of Ministers to accept the strongly argued British case for urgent talks with the U.S. over its textile exports to Europe. The industry mainly through the BTC has over the past two months brought very considerable pressure to bear on Government ministers aimed at securing a more comprehensible answer to the problem posed by American exports after the expiry of the existing quotas on two products — nylon carpet yarn and polyester filament—at the end of this month.

With other European countries now beginning to feel the effects of American export competitiveness Mr. Cecil Parkinson was evidently able to persuade the Council of Ministers of the need for this. Accordingly, the commission has been asked to discuss a whole range of problems and possible solutions with the U.S.

The industry is interpreting this to mean that the discussions will embrace not just the energy . price advantage enjoyed by the U.S. as a result of access to cheap oil and gas feedstocks, what the industry sees as other unfair elements giving the U.S. its competitive edge.

Buying with electronic cards

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

RESULTS from Barclays Bank's experiment in electronic funds transfer carried out in collaboration with the major oil companies are said to have been encouraging.

Barclays is the first bank to experiment with electronic methods of payment at the point of sale. Though the experiment does not end until May 1981 the bank is pleased that a high proportion of credit card owners use the experimental electronic system.

The service, called Counterspeed, allows customers to pay for petrol at six Norwich garages using an electronic card reader which automatically records details such as account number stored on the magnetic stripe on Barclaycards or bankcards.

The system automatically debits the customers' bank or Barclaycard accounts and issues a receipt. At the same time the system updates the files stored companies' — at the bank and at the oil companies' accounting centres for the petrol station concerned.

The customer simply hands his card over to the attendant, who passes it through the reader and then signs the receipt to verify the sale. On average more than 20 per cent of all petrol sales are made by credit card.

There are more than 1.25m Barclaycards in the UK and 84m Visa cards worldwide — Barclaycard is linked to the Visa organisation — which could form the basis of an electronic funds transfer system. However the major obstacles for banks is in retailing where there are many legal and technical problems to be solved before customers in supermarkets will be able to buy goods in this way.

The main banks in the UK have been talking with major retailers about setting up an experiment in the next year or so but no final decisions have been made.

Birmingham to host Music Fair

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

THE SOUND of music is coming to Birmingham's Naional Exhibition Centre. It will be heard there next August when the NEC stages its first British Music Fair.

Primarily a trade show for makers and distributors of musical instruments, amplifiers and sheet music, it also hopes to pull in the crowds with classical and popular concerts. Two previous fairs were stage dat London's Olympia.

Plans for the show were announced yesterday by the Association of Music Industries, which claims to represent 95 per cent of British businesses catering for live music. Piano and electric-organ makers have their own organisations, but they are being invited to join the show.

Mr. Michael Doughty, the association's president, said that although the 75 members of his association held their total turnover steady at about £200m, the recession was having its impact. They were particularly concerned about the effect of the educaion cuts on school orchestras and bands.

British manufacturers were also being put at a disadvantage by high interest rates and the strong pound. This was reflected in the association's changing membership, 30 per cent of which were now overseas companies compared with less than 5 per cent eight years ago.

Britain still had strong exporting companies, such as Premier Drum, which sells to orchestras and military bands in 70 countries, or Barnes and Mullins of Oswestry, which sells tin whistles. Boosey and Hawkes is still the leading maker of wind and brass instruments.

However, Mr. Doughty feared that companies which failed to modernse production methods would soon be in deep trouble. Some of the toughest competition was now coming from the U.S. He had recently seen an American electric-guitar company where a three-man production line turned out 20,000 instruments a year.

Several Far Eastern countries also had growing industries. UK piano manufacturers had complained that pianos imported from China were being sold here at less than the cost of the materials. Yamaha instruments, from Japan, have already made an international impact, while new industries were growing up in Korea and Taiwan.

Mr. Doughty's own company, Stentor Music, had dealings with all these countries, as well as with East and West Germany, Romania, Italy, France and Austria. But it stopped short of selling Pakistani bagpipes in Scotland. "They were just not good enough," he said.

Docks recreation plan 'could revive Preston'

BY OUR NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

PRESTON DOCKS, soon due to be closed after nearly 100 years of trading, could be used to bring about a substantial revival in the fortunes of the town, accordnig to a report commissioned by the Central Lancashire Development Corporation.

The report on the 300-acre dock area rejects the idea of filling in the 45-acre water space of the main dock, largely on cost grounds. The cheapest option, according to consultants Sir William Halgow and partners, is to retain the water space — conveniently situated close to the centre of town — and to make it available for a variety of recreational purposes.

The Dock would be sealed off under this option, but because of its size would be able to stay fresh. Access to the river would still be possible at certain times from an entrance basin outside the dock, and this would be developed as a yachting centre.

Just as importantly, according to the Corporation, the release of the 300 acres of dock land would make it possible to improve the infrastructure and the environment in which existing industry in the area operates, and make it easier to attract new ventures. There would be scope, too, for housing development which would enjoy the extra appeal of being close to new recreational amenties.

The various options outlined in the report are now being looked at by Preston council which will shortly begin running down the 300-strong labour force in the docks to a small skeleton staff of around 50.

The last vesels will call at the port after the Royal Assent has been given to a Bill which has recently passed through Parliament sanctioning the closure.

Development of the site once the options have been considered seems likely to pass to the Central Lancashire Development Corporation, the new town authority set up to cover, Preston, Leyland and Chorely, though the exact role it plays will be determined after consultations with the town council, the dock's owners.

Mr. Richard Phelps, the corporation's general manager, said yesterday that once a decision on the dock itself and land use had been settled a marketing strategy would need to be drawn up aimed at involving private sector developers in schemes for the area.

One northern building group, William Leech, of Newcastle, has already expressed interest in undertaking the conversion of the dock into a leisure and residential water port, and is mentioning possible investment of as much as £50m on the scheme.

The corporation, which has worked closely with a number of private developers on its new town sites, is likely, however, to want to involve several groups.

The corporation is one of the third generation new towns, the future of which still have to be finally decided by the Environment Department, though a winding up date around 1987 is likely. Mr. Phelps said it was hoped any schemes for Preston Dock could be well under way by that date.

The corporation has recently been broadening its activities to include rehabilitation of older industrial areas within its boundaries as well as the development of "green field" factory sites and housing.

● Preston Dock Redevelopment Survey reports. Central Lancs. Development Corporation, Cuerden Hall, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6AXM.

Fewer allotments available

Financial Times Reporter

WHILE MORE people are seeking allotments — spurred by unemployment, the rising cost of food or just a back-to-the-land urge — the number of local authority allotments in Britain is declining.

It is estimated that there are now about 600,000 local authority allotments in Britain, about 100,000 fewer than six years ago. Amateur gardeners and conservationists are concerned that land which could be used for allotments is disappearing.

About 150,000 acres a year is being taken out of food production, mostly land surrounding urban areas, with about half going to urban development. Motorways use up 70,000 acres a year.

Local authorities estimate that up to 150,000 people may now be on allotment waiting lists, about 30,000 more than two years ago. In London alone, the waiting list numbers over 16,000.

At present there seems little chance of this demand being satisfied, even though the Environment Department admits that there are thousands of acres of derelict land within urban areas which could be used to provide short-term allotments.

Municipal authorities have hundreds of sites earmarked for development, which have had to be shelved because of the economic cuts. Some projects have been put back 10 years or more. It is this land which amateur gardeners want to cultivate temporarily.

They are concerned that local authorities, faced with a cash squeeze, are selling land earmarked for local council development to private developers, thus preventing the sites being used as short-term allotments.

BBC needs £2m for Carfax

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

THERE IS growing uncertainty about the future of Carfax, the BBC's radio information service for motorists.

Though the BBC is prepared to introduce a full service for motorists, the Government has not been forthcoming with the finance to run the system.

The BBC needs about £2m to set up a nationwide service to provide details of traffic jams and accidents, plus an extra £1m a year in running costs. Against these costs, the BBC estimates the country could save between £5m and £10m a year by reducing the time a motorist spends travelling.

A number of UK radio equipment manufacturers, including Radiomobile, have written to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, suggesting a way in which the service could be financed by the motorist.

The basis of the proposal is a subscription fee levied by UK makers on Carfax customers which would provide the capital and running costs. But there has been no positive response from the Government.

The original cost of the Carfax project, estimated to be more than £250,000, was funded by the Transport and Road Research Laboratories under the auspices of the Department of Transport.

Carfax allows anyone with a suitable receiver to automatically pick up traffic information by interrupting the normal radio service.

Stock Exchange dealings

Wednesday, December 24	—
Tuesday, December 23	16,170
Monday, December 22	16,070
Friday, December 19	18,210
Thursday, December 18	16,218
Wednesday, December 17	16,985

The list below gives the prices at which bargains were done by members of the Stock Exchange and recorded in last Wednesday's Stock Exchange Daily Official List. For those securities not marked in Wednesday's List, we show the latest markings recorded during the previous three business days, these are distinguished by the date shown in parentheses.

The number of dealings marked on Wednesday in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted, shares are £1 fully paid and stock £100 fully paid.

Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to 2.15 pm only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's Official List. The figures shown above, on the other hand, are the total number of bargains transacted in all securities up to 3.30 pm. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

: Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ɸ Bargains done previous day. § Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ♣ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." SA—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BRITISH FUNDS (336)

3pc British Transport Stk. 1978-88 61⅞
2½pc Cons. Stk. 20½ɸ
4pc Cons. Ln. 33½ɸ ⅝
3½pc Conversion Ln. 37⅛ (23/12)
13¼pc Exchequer Ln. 1996 98ɸ 7½ɸ
3pc Exchequer Stk. 1981 93¾ɸ
3pc Exchequer Stk. 1983 84¾ɸ
3pc Exchequer Stk. 1983 A 84 (22/12)
3pc Exchequer Stk. 1984 78½ɸ
8¼pc Exchequer Stk. 1981 97⁹⁄₁₆ɸ
8¼pc Exchequer Stk. 1983 92 (22/12)
9¼pc Exchequer Stk. 1982 92¼ɸ

Bank of Ireland (Ir£1) 285 (23/12)
Bank of New South Wales (Ldn. Reg.) ($A1) 147 (23/12)
Bank of Scotland 295 (22/12)
Barclays 425ɸ 32ɸ. 8¼pcLn. 68¾ɸ
Barclays Bank Intnl. 7½pcLn. 65¼ (22/12)
Baring Bros. 4½pcPf. 33½ (19/12)
Can. Imperial Bank of Commerce ($C2) 9.50 (22/12)
Citicorp ($US4) 9.91½ (19/12)
Clive Discount (20p) 46 (22/12)
Commercial Bank of Australia (Ldn. Reg.) ($A1) 133ɸ
Gerrard National Discount (25p) 282 79 86 (23/12)
Gillett Bros. Discount 218

Japan 6pcLn. 1983-88 70ɸ

BANKS (29)

Allied Irish Banks (Ir£0.25) 3ɸ
Ansbacher (Henry) (5p) 16 (19/12)
Bank America Corp. ($US1.5625) 12⅝ (22/12)

Blackman and Conrad (20p) 5½ (22/12)
Blackwood Hodge (25p) 35½ɸ
Blackwood Morton and Sons (Hldgs.) (25p) 15 (23/12)
Blue Circle Indusls. 336. New 332ɸ 4ɸ. 7pcDb. 63½ɸ 9pcDb. 71¼ɸ. 10¼pcDb. 76¼ (19/12)
Bluemel Bros. (25p) 27ɸ

Halma (10p) 85 (22/12)
Hampson Indus. (5p) 8ɸ
Hanger Inv. 7¼pcDb. 65½ (23/12)
Hanson Tst. (25p) 197ɸ 90
Hargreaves Gp. (20p) 45 (22/12)
Harris (P.) Hldgs. (20p) 67
Harrison (T. C.) (25p) 49 50 (19/12)
Harrisons & Crosfield 7⅝ɸ
Hawker Siddeley Gp. (25p) 42ɸ. 8¼pc Db. 70½ (22/12)
Hawley Leisure (5p) 38½ (23/12)
Hawthorn (R. W.) Leslie & Co. (50p) 132 (23/12)

Q—R—S

Queens Moat Houses (5p) 35 (23/12). 10½pcUnsec.Ln. 110 (23/12)
RCF Hldgs. (25p) 14 (19/12)
RFD Group (10p) 36½ɸ
Racal Electronics (25p) 324ɸ 6
Raine Engg. Industs. (10p) 7½ɸ
Rank Org. (25p) 170ɸ. 10½pcLn. 74 ½ (23/12)
Ranks Hovis McDougall (25p) 42½

ACTIVE STOCKS

WEDNESDAY—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1980 high	1980 low
Birmid Qualcast	25p	4	25½	+ 4	46½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	3	525	+ 5	678	373
East Rand Prop.	R1	3	£12¾xd	+ ¼	£17½	862
European Ferries	25p	3	148	+ 1	192	98
GEC	25p	3	596	+ 1	618	326
KCA	25p	3	185	+ 4	193	28
Shell Transport...	25p	3	474	+ 2	522	314
Assd. Leisure ...	5p	2	128	+ 6	146	81
BP	25p	2	426	− 2	502	320
Cmmrcial. Union	25p	2	136	—	180	125
Dubilier	5p	2	55xd	− ½	74	31½
Duport	25p	2	17½	—	58	17
Harmony	R0.50	2	£11	+ ⅛	£14½	675
Premier Cons. ...	5p	2	110	+ 2	127	36
RTZ	25p	2	410	—	486	322

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on week	1980 high	1980 low
Shell Transport...	25p	19	474	− 4	522	314
GEC	25p	18	596	+ 3	618	326
European Ferries	25p	15	148	− 5	192	98
Premier Cons. ...	5p	15	110	+ 3	127	36
Sovereign Oil ...	25p	15	435	+ 8	500	101
Phoenix Timber	25p	14	108xd	+ 9	147	75
BP	25p	13	426	− 2	502	320
Burmah Oil	£1	13	189	+ 1	249	162
ICI	£1	13	318	−12	402	314
Davy Crpn.	25p	12	168	− 3	175	76
GKN	£1	12	143	+10	279	133
NatWest Bank ...	£1	11	380	− 2	428	305
Racal Elec.	25p	11	325	− 4	378	175
ICL	25p	10	63xd	− 7	196	63
LASMO	25p	10	750	−15	885	337

Economic Diary

WEDNESDAY—Energy Trends publication.

THURSDAY—Mr. Roy Jenkins steps down as EEC Commission president. British Airways and Qantas cut cargo rates to Australia. New sliding scale of tariffs by Suez Canal Authority come into force. Greece becomes 10th member of EEC.

FRIDAY—Cambridge Econometrics energy report: "Danger of British Industry becoming too oil-dependent." Public records for 1950 disclosed. Car and commercial vehicle production (November final).

SATURDAY: Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, begins seven-day visit to Morocco.

£3m furniture centre opens

THE BIGGEST furniture centre in Europe opens for business in Olympia's Empire Hall today. The owners, UKay Ltd., have spent nearly £3m refitting the hall.

The £1.5m stock includes 300 three-piece suites, 34 fitted kitchens, 90 ranges of carpet, as well as bedroom and dining-room settings.

MINES

Australian (7)

North Kalgurli Mines (A$0.30) 82Φ. New Ptly. Pd. (A$0.30) 60
Western Mining Cpn. Hldgs. (A$0.50) 288Φ 7Φ

Miscellaneous (32)

AMAX Inc.Shs. (US$1) 17¼. 8pcSubs.Dbs. (US$100) £29 (22/12)
Beralt Tin and Wolfram (25p) 53 (22/12)
Charter Consd. (Reg.) (2p) 218
Consd. Gold Fields (25p) 530Φ 27Φ 2Φ 7 £5½ p525. New (25p) 522Φ 6Φ
Geevor Tin Mines (25p) 140 (23/12)
Malayan Tin Dredging (M) Berhad (M$0.10) 92Φ
Rio Tinto-Zinc Cpn. (Reg.) (25p) 410Φ 7 5. 9½pcUnsec.Ln. 101½Φ 1Φ
Silverminos (£0.02½) 115
Tanks Consd. Invests. (50p) 294 3 (19/12). 9pcPf. (80p) 86 (22/12)

Rhodesian (—)

Botswana RST (Pu2) 24 (22/12)
MTD (Mangula) (25p) 87 (23/12)
Minerals and Resources Cpn. (BD$1.40) 630 5 (23/12)

RUBBER (3)

Bertam Consltd. Rubber (10p) 65Φ
Consltd. Plantations Berhad (SM0.50) 45Φ. Warrants 105 (22/12)
Guthrie £7 (22/12)
Harrisons Malaysian Ests (10p) 168 (23/12)
Maledie Invests. (10p) 82Φ

UK RAILWAYS (—)

Canadian Pacific (SC5) £75¼ (22/12)

FOREIGN RAILWAYS (2)

Chilian Northern Rlwy. 5pc1stDbs. 95Φ ½Φ

SHIPPING (4)

Brit. Cmmwlth. Shipping (50p) 301 (23/12)
Common Bros. (50p) 297 (19/12)
Graig Shipping 191½Φ
London Overseas Freighters (25p) 38Φ
Peninsular Oriental Steam Nav. 5pcPfd. 27½ (22/12). Dfd. 115½Φ
Reardon Smith Line A Non-vtg. (50p) 84 (22/12)
Runciman (W.) (25p) 117 (22/12)
Stag Line 212Φ
Turnbull Scot Hldgs. 212Φ

TEA (1)

Camellia Invests. (10p) 418 (23/12)
Warren Plantations Hldgs. (25p) 177

CANALS (1)

Manchester Ship Canal 205. 5pcPf. 34 (19/12)
Mersey Docks Harbour Combined Units 7 (22/12)
Milford Docks 97 (22/12)

WATERWORKS (—)

Mid Sussex 14pcDb. 99 (22/12)

UNLISTED MARKETS SECURITIES

American Communications Inds. 20pc 39½ (22/12)
C.C.P. North Sea (25p) 268Φ
Cluff Oil (£1) 300p (23/12). Do. A (£1) 310Φ
Clyde Petroleum (£1) 750Φ 6Φ 65Φ
Cramphorn 620Φ
Dunbar New 420Φ
Energy Finance 8pcUnsec.Ln. 95-2000 0¼ (22/12)
Fuller, Smith & Turner A (£1) 307Φ 16Φ
Gas Oil Acreage 470Φ
Hadland (J.) Hldgs. (25p) 205Φ 10:Φ
Heelamat Hldgs. (10p) 88Φ 6Φ 8Φ
London and Continental Hldgs. Ord. (5p) 13½Φ
McLaughlin & Harvey (25p) 58 (23/12)
Midland Mats. New (25p) 91 (22/12)
Scan Data (10p) 227½ 5Φ 30Φ 7:Φ
Sovereign Oil and Gas (25p) 425Φ 6:Φ 6Φ 7Φ 9Φ 30:Φ 3:Φ 5:Φ
Thames Inv. Sec. (£1) 132Φ. 12pcPf. (75p) 105Φ
Trust Secs. Hldgs. (40p) 220Φ 2Φ 3Φ 4:Φ 4Φ 6Φ

RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked in securities which are quoted or listed on an Overseas Stock Exchange.

DECEMBER 23

Allstate Expln. 85Φ
Ashton Mining 130Φ
Bougainville Copper 99
Bow Valley 760Φ
Bridge Oil 298Φ
CSR 353Φ 5
Cominco £24.75Φ 24.92Φ
Cheung Kong 254Φ
Central Pacific Minerals 358Φ 43
Conex 10½
Cons. Res. 71Φ
Dome Mines £39⅛
Double Eagle 220
Endeavour Resources 37½
Global Marine £30¾ ¼
Gulfstream Resources 380Φ 75Φ 65Φ
Hartogen Energy 320:
Hill 50 Gold 40
Hudsons Bay Oil and Gas 840Φ 60
Hutchison Whampoa 139½Φ
Jardine Matheson 193Φ 7Φ 208
MIM Hldgs. 224
MSZT 140
Madison Fund £10¼Φ
Maloy Credit 60
Meekatharra Minerals 363:Φ 5:Φ 70Φ 90Φ
Mogul Mining 190Φ 200
Negri River 57
North Broken Hill 201 20 200
Oakbridge New 92Φ
Oakwood Int. Pets 16½
Offshore Oil 18½Φ ½
Ohio Res. 175
Otter Expln. 69Φ 8
Palliser Res. 180Φ
Pan Pacific Pets. 19Φ
Pancontinental Mining 55Φ
Poseidon 297
Rio Algom £12.50Φ 12.60Φ
Samantha Expln. 72Φ
Sceptre Resources 605Φ
Scuddor Duovest 58Φ
Shackleton Pets. 68Φ
Smith (Howard) 440Φ
Southern Pacific Pets. 142:Φ 5: 35
Standard Oil of Indiana £37½Φ 8:Φ 6½
Standard Oil of Ohio £33⅝Φ 4½Φ 2⅞
Strata Oil Opts. 140
Union Oil of California £21⅛Φ

DECEMBER 22

Amerada Hldgs. US$45⅛
American Telep. and Teleg. £20⅛
Beach Pets. 119
Bond Corp. 148Φ
Bougainville Copper 98Φ
CRA 290
Central Pacific Minerals 370Φ
Conex 10Φ 11
Consd. Goldfields Australia 490
Consd. Res. 72 5
Cultus Pacific 35
Cultus Pacific Options 21
Edeavour Resources 37Φ
Gulfstream Resources 375Φ
Haw Par 52
Highwood Res. 165
Hong Kong Land 161Φ 9Φ
Hutchison Whampoa 119½Φ 15 6
Intnl. Mining 78
Jardine Matheson 195 8
IM Hldgs. 228Φ 5 6
Meekatharra Mins. 365Φ
Metals Expln. 170
Moore McCormack £22¼
North Broken Hill 208Φ
Northern Mining 120Φ
Oakbridge New 87Φ 90Φ

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Knowsley (051-548 6555)	13¼	½-year	1,000	5-7
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	13¼	½-year	200	5-6

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	*Term shares %	
Abbey National	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Aid to Thrift	10.85	11.37	—	—	
Alliance	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 11.75 3 mths.
Anglia	10.25	10.50	11.75	13.00	6 yrs., 12.50 5 yrs.
Bradford and Bingley	10.25	10.50	11.75	11.25	one month's notice deposit
Bridgwater	10.25	10.50	12.00	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.60 2½ yrs.
Bristol and West	10.25	10.50	11.75	—	
Bristol Economic	10.25	10.50	11.75	11.25	3 months. Escalator shares *11.00-12.50 (1-5 years)*
Britannia	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 11.75 2 months' notice
Burnley	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Cardiff	10.50	11.25	12.25	—	
Catholic	10.50	10.75	11.65	—	Share a/cs 10.95 over £5,000
Chelsea	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.90 1 year (min.), 11.55 6 mths.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	11.50	—	—	Premium shares including 1.00 bonus p.a. (£15,000 or £20,000)
Citizens Regency	10.25	10.85	12.05	12.85	5 yrs., 12.35 4 yrs., 11.85 3 yrs.
City of London (The)	10.50	10.80	11.80	12.00	Capital City shares—4 mths. not.
Coventry Economic	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.00	4 yr., 11.5 3 yr., 11.25 3 mth. not.
Coventry Provident	10.25	10.50	12.50	12.55	av. 5 yr., 12.00 4 yr., 11.25 3 min.
Derbyshire	10.25	10.50	11.75	11.30	3 months' notice
Ealing and Acton	10.25	11.00	—	11.65	2 years, £2,000 minimum
Gateway	10.25	10.50	11.75	10.75	6 mths., rising to 12.50 5 yrs.
Greenwich	—	10.75	12.00	12.75	5 yrs., 12.25 4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs.
Guardian	10.25	10.75	—	12.25	6 mth., 11.75 3 mth., min. £1,000
Halifax	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Heart of England	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 11.00 3 months' notice
Hearts of Oak and Enfield	10.25	10.75	12.25	12.00	4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs., 11.50 2 yrs.
Hendon	10.50	11.00	—	12.00	6 months, minimum £2,000
Huddersfield and Bradford	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Lambeth	10.25	10.75	12.50	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 6 months' notice
Leamington Spa	10.35	10.60	14.19	12.55	5 yrs., 12.30 4 yrs., 11.90 3 yrs.
Leeds Permanent	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., opt. from 10.75 6 mths.
Leicester	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Liverpool	10.25	10.50	11.95	12.50	5 years, minimum £1,000
Melton Mowbray	10.35	10.60	11.75	13.10	6 yrs., 12.10 4 yrs., 11.35 2 yrs.
Mornington	11.25	11.75	—	—	
National Counties	10.50	10.80	11.80	11.90	6 mth., 11.35 3 mth., min. £1,000
Nationwide	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.00 1 yr.
New Cross	11.00	11.25	—	11.25	12.50 on share accs., depending on min. balance over 6 mths.
Northern Rock	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Norwich	10.25	10.50	12.00	11.50	3 yrs., 11.25 2 yrs., min. £500
Paddington	10.00	11.00	12.50	11.75	6 mth., 12.00 wdl. 1 mth. loss int.
Peckham Mutual	10.50	11.00	—	—	
Portman	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 11.55 6 months' notice
Portsmouth	9.35	9.55	11.05	11.60	5 yrs. to 11.00 6 mths.
Property Owners	10.25	11.00	12.25	12.50	av. 4 yrs., 12 6 mth., 11.55 3 mth.
Provincial	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Skipton	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 11.60 wdl. 1 mth. loss int.
Sussex County	10.50	10.75	12.55	12.55	5 yrs., 12.15 4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs.
Sussex Mutual	10.50	10.85	12.50	11.25-12.50	all with special options
Town and Country	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50	5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Walthamstow	10.25	10.60	11.75	12.60	5 yrs., 11.6 6 mth. not. min. £500
Wessex	10.50	11.20	—	12.20	min. 3 yrs., 6 mth. notice of wdl.
Woolwich	10.25	10.50	11.75	10.75	(6 mths.), rising to 12.5 (5 yrs.)

*Rates normally variable in line with changes in ordinary share rates.

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

UK MONEY MARKET

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 14 per cent (from November 24, 1980)

The Treasury bill rate fell by 0.1186 per cent at yesterday's tender to 13.0161 per cent, and the minimum accepted bid was £96.74½ compared with £96.72½ the previous week. Bids at that level were met as to about 20 per cent and above in full. The £200m of bills on offer attracted bids of £735.05m, and all bills offered were allotted. Next week a further £200m will be on offer, replacing a similar amount of maturities.

In the money market day to day credit was in very short supply, and the authorities gave assistance on a large scale. This comprised moderate purchases of Treasury bills and a small number of local authority bills, both from discount houses and banks. The help was completed by small loans to one or two houses at MLR, for repayment on Monday. The market was faced with an exceptionally large excess of revenue transfers to the Exchequer over Government disbursements, and this was only partly offset by a very large number of Treasury bills maturing outside official hands, and bankers balances brought forward a moderate way above target. In the interbank market overnight money touched 16 per cent at one point before finishing at 13-14 per cent.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Trading was predictably quiet on the last day before Christmas in yesterday's foreign exchange market, with many centres in Europe already closed. The dollar *showed a weaker tendency in* what business there was, reflecting the continued move towards lower interest rates in the U.S. However it was difficult to detect any real trend, with most operators staying away from the market. Against the D-mark, the dollar eased to DM 1.9425 from DM 1.9460, and SwFr 1.7600 compared with SwFr 1.7630 in terms of the Swiss franc. Against the Japanese yen however, the U.S. unit was unchanged at Y207.50. On Bank of England figures, the dollar's trade weighted index was unchanged at 86.4.

Sterling was virtually un*changed on balance. Its trade* weighted index at noon, which was the last calculation of the day, eased slightly to 77.9 from 78.0, having stood at 77.9 in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at $2.3750 and traded up to $2.3825 on dollar weakness, before closing at $2.3760-$2.3790, a rise of 75 points from Tuesday, and its best closing level for over a month. Gold was unchanged from Tuesday at $603-$606.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Dec. 24	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	2.3650-2.3825	2.3760-2.3790	1.00-1.30c dis	−5.80	1.90-2.30dis	−3.53
Canada	2.8220-2.8350	2.8285-2.8315	0.60-0.90c dis	−3.18	1.20-1.60dis	−1.91
Nethlnd.	5.00-5.06	5.03½-5.05½	3¼-2¼c pm	6.54	6¾-5¾ pm	4.95
Belgium	74.00-74.50	74.25-74.40	25-15c pm	3.23	42-32 pm	1.99
Denmark	14.15-14.20	14.17-14.19	6¼-3¾ore pm	4.23	2⅝-2⅛ pm	0.67
Ireland	1.2330-1.2420	1.2345-1.2375	0.10p pm-0.20dis	−0.48	0.28pm-0.09ds	0.27
W. Ger.	4.59-4.63	4.61-4.62	2½-1½pf pm	5.20	6-5 pm	4.77
Portugal	125.00-126.00	125.20-125.60	30c pm-60 dis	−1.43	5 pm-115dis	−1.75
Spain	186.40-187.40	186.50-186.65	par-90c dis	−2.89	95-210 dis	−3.27
Italy	2184-2194	2188-2190	1½-3½lire dis	−1.37	18-21 dis	−3.56
Norway	12.23-12.28	12.25-12.27	7⅝-4⅝ore pm	5.69	15¾-12⅞ pm	4.59
France	10.65-10.71	10.68-10.70	3½-2½c pm	3.37	7½-6½ pm	2.62
Sweden	10.35-10.41	10.36-10.38	1¾-3½ore dis	−3.04	3⅞-6⅞ dis	−1.73
Japan	490-496	492½-494½	2.80-1.70y pm	5.47	6.10-4.80 pm	4.42
Austria	32.60-32.75	32.60-32.70	19-12gro pm	5.70	34-21 pm	3.37
Switz.	4.16-4.22	4.17½-4.19½	2¾-1¾c pm	6.45	8½-7½ pm	7.65

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 74.45-74.55.
Six-month forward dollar 2.30-2.80c dis. 12-month 2.00-3.00c dis.

GOLD

	Dec. 24		Dec. 23	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$603-606	(£253¼-254¾)	$603-606	(£254¼-255½)
Opening	$603-606	(£253¼-254¾)	$592-595	(£251¼-252½)
Morning fixing	$604	(£254.316)	$596.50	(£251.370)
Afternoon fixing	—	—	$602.50	(£253.631)
Gold Coins				
Krugerrand	$622-626	(£262½-264½)	$622-624	(£262½-264)
1/2 Krugerrand	$319-324	(£134½-136¾)	$317-322½	(£134-136)
1/4 Krugerrand	$160½-165½	(£67¾-69¾)	$160-165	(£67½-69¾)
1/10 Krugerrand	$65-68	(£27½-28¾)	$65-67	(£27½-28¼)
Mapleleaf	$616-621	(£260-263)	$618-628	(£260½-262½)
New Sovereigns	$152¾-154¼	(£64½-65½)	$152-153	(£64-65)
King Sovereigns	$172½-174½	(£72¾-73¾)	$172-174½	(£72½-74)
Victoria Sovs.	$172½-174½	(£72¾-73¾)	$172-174½	(£72½-74)
French 20s	$152½-154½	(£64¼-65¼)	$152½-154	(£64½-65)
50 pesos Mexico	$745-749	(£314¼-316)	$745-749	(£314½-316¼)
100 Cor. Austria	$585-589	(£246¾-248¼)	$585-589	(£247-248¾)
$20 Eagles	$710-715	(£299½-301½)	$705-710	(£297½-299¾)

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Dec. 24	PoundSterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	FrenchFranc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	2.378	4.615	493.5	10.69	4.185	5.045	2189.	2.830	74.33
U.S. Dollar	0.421	1.	1.941	207.6	4.496	1.760	2.122	920.7	1.190	31.26
Deutschemark	0.217	0.515	1.	106.9	2.316	0.907	1.093	474.3	0.613	16.11
Japanese Yen 1,000	2.026	4.818	9.352	1000.	21.66	8.480	10.22	4436.	5.735	150.6
French Franc 10	0.935	2.224	4.317	461.6	10.	3.915	4.719	2048.	2.647	69.53
Swiss Franc	0.239	0.568	1.103	117.9	2.554	1.	1.205	523.1	0.676	17.76
Dutch Guilder	0.198	0.471	0.915	97.82	2.119	0.830	1.	433.9	0.561	14.73
Italian Lira 1,000	0.457	1.086	2.108	225.4	4.884	1.912	2.305	1000.	1.293	33.95
Canadian Dollar	0.353	0.840	1.631	174.4	3.777	1.479	1.783	773.5	1.	26.26
Belgian Franc 100	1.345	3.199	6.209	664.0	14.38	5.631	6.788	2945.	3.808	100.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. DECEMBER 24)

3 months U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars	
bid 18	offer 18 1/8	bid 17	offer 17 1/8

The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Dec. 24 1980	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount Market deposits	Treasury Bills Φ	Eligible Bank Bills Φ	Fine Trade Bills Φ
Overnight	—	12-16	14½-16	—	—	14¼	13½-14	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	14⅝-14¾	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	14-15	14⅝-15	—	14⅝	14⅝	13⅝-13¾	—	—	—
One month	14¹⁄₁₆-14⅛	14½-14⅞	14⅝-14¾	15⅝-16	14⅝	14⅞	13⅝-13¾	13⅛-13¼	14¼-14⁷⁄₁₆	14¾
Two months	14⁷⁄₁₆-14⁹⁄₁₆	14⁷⁄₁₆-14⅞	—	14⅞-15⅜	14⁹⁄₁₆	15	13½	13⅛-13³⁄₁₆	14¼	14⅝
Three months	14¼-14⅜	14⅝-14⅞	14¾	14⅝-15	15	15⅛	13½	13⅛	14⅛-14⅛	14½
Six months	14¼-14½	14¼-14½	14⅜-14½	14¼-14⅝	14⅝	16	—	—	13⅝-13⅞	13¾
Nine months	13¹³⁄₁₆-13¹⁵⁄₁₆	14-14¼	—	14⅛-14⅜	14¹⁄₁₆	14⅞	—	—	—	—
One Year	13¾-13⅝	13⅞-14¹⁄₁₆	13⅞-14	13¾-14¼	14¼	14¾	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	13⅞-14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 13⅞-14 per cent; four years 13⅞-14 per cent; five years 14 per cent. ΦBank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 13⅞ per cent; four-month trade bills 14⅜ per cent.

Approximate selling rate for one-month Treasury bills 13³⁄₁₆ per cent; two-months 13⅛ per cent; three-months 13 per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills 14⅛-14³⁄₁₆ per cent; two-months 14⅛ per cent; three-months 13³¹⁄₃₂-14 per cent; one-month trade bills 14½ per cent; two-months 14⅜ per cent and three-months 14¼ per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 16 per cent from December 1, 1980. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 11½-12 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 14 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 13.0161 per cent.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Dec. 24	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes§
Sterling	77.9	Unav'lab l
U.S. dollar	86.4	"
Canadian dollar	79.5	"
Austrian schilling	149.4	"
Belgian franc	112.2	"
Danish kroner	103.1	"
Deutsche mark	148.0	"
Swiss franc	189.8	"
Guilder	123.1	"
French franc	97.4	"
Lira	50.7	"
Yen	140.8	"

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971 (Bank of England Index=100).

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market closing Rates)

Dec. 24	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Belgian Franc Convertible	Japanese Yen
Short term	14¼-14½	20½-21	—	8⅝-8⅝	¼-¾	8¼-8½	10¼-10½	13-15	11½-11¾	4-4½
7 days' notice	14¼-14¾	22-22½	17½-18½	8¾-9	30-35	12½-12¾	9-9½	17¾-19¾	12-12½	8⅛-8⅜
Month	14⅝-14⅞	21-21¼	17⅝-18	9¹⁄₁₆-9¼	8⅝-8¾	10⁵⁄₁₆-10⁷⁄₁₆	11½-11½	17-18½	12¹⁄₁₆-12³⁄₁₆	9¼-9½
Three months	14⁷⁄₁₆-14⁹⁄₁₆	18-18¼	16½-16⅞	9⅜-9½	7½-7⅝	9⅞-10⅛	11⅞-12⅛	18¼-19¼	12⅞-13	9½-9¾
Six months	14¼-14½	16⅞-17⅛	15-15⅜	9¾-9⅞	7⅛-7⅜	9⅝-9¾	12⅜-12⅝	18½-19½	13¼-13½	9½-9¾
One Year	14⅛-14½	14⅞-15⅛	13¾-14⅛	9⅞-10⅛	6⅜-6½	9⅜-9½	12⅞-13⅛	19½-20½	13⅜-13¼	9⅜-9⅝

Asian $ (closing rates in Singapore) one-month 21-21¼ per cent; three-months 17⅞-18⅛ per cent; six-months 15¾-15½ per cent; one year 14¾-15 per cent. Long-term European two years 14½-14⅝ per cent; three years 14¾-14½ per cent; four years 14⅜-14⅜ per cent; five years 14-14¼ per cent nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two-days' notice.

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 19.60-19.80 per cent; three-months 17.90-18.10 per cent; six-months 16.50-16.70 per cent; one year 14.40-14.60 per cent.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU December 23	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	39.7897	41.1921	+3.52	+1.13	±1.53
Danish Krone	7.72336	7.88786	+2.13	−0.26	±1.64
German D-Mark	2.48208	2.55917	+3.11	+0.72	±1.125
French Franc	5.84700	5.92018	+1.25	−1.14	±1.3557
Dutch Guilder	2.74362	2.78678	+1.57	−0.82	±1.512
Irish Punt	0.668201	0.687321	+2.86	+0.47	±1.668
Italian Lira	1157.79	1216.13	+5.04	+2.79	±4.08

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Dec. 24	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	4715-4735	1984-1991	Austria	32.40-32.70
Australia Dollar	2.0180-2.0220	0.8505-0.8510	Belgium	73.95-74.65
Brazil Cruzeiro	154.84-155.84	65.17-65.50	Denmark	14.06-14.16
Finland Markka	9.10½-9.13½	3.8380-3.8430	France	10.60-10.70
Greek Drachma	108.514-111.674	46.00-46.50	Germany	4.57½-4.61½
Hong Kong Dollar	12.08-12.16	5.1060-5.1090	Italy	2170-2195
Iran Rial	170.00*	72.25*	Japan	494-499
Kuwait Dinar(KD)	0.644-0.650	0.2718-0.2719	Netherlands	4.98-5.02
Luxembourg Frc.	74.25-74.40	31.26-31.28	Norway	12.17-12.27
Malaysia Dollar	5.2000-5.2600	2.1900-2.2100	Portugal	125½-131½
New Zealand Dlr.	2.4760-2.4810	1.0435-1.0445	Spain	183½-193
Saudi Arab. Riyal	7.69-7.95	3.3290-3.3340	Sweden	10.29-10.39
Singapore Dollar	4.9295-4.9875	2.0800-2.1000	Switzerland	4.15½-4.19½
Sth. African Rand	1.7760-1.7780	0.7470-0.7480	United States	2.36¼-2.38¼
U.A.E. Dirham	8.70-8.76	3.6700-3.6750	Yugoslavia	78½-80½

Rate given for Argentina is free rate. * Selling rate.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 27/12/80

Statistics provided by *dataSTREAM International*

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates&	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.‖	Income Div.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◊ Current
British Land 12pc Cv. 2002	9.71	294.00	333.3	80-97	4.1	1.6	− 2.0	−7 to 3	17.7	58.4	23.6	+25.6
Hanson Tr. 6½pc Cv. 88/93	3.02	108.00	57.1	76-81	6.4	6.3	− 8.0	−9 to −5	3.8	0.0	− 3.4	+ 4.6
Slough Ests. 10pc Cv. 87/90	5.44	251.00	187.5	78-85	4.0		− 0.8	−6 to 1	28.9	31.2	0.9	+ 1.7
Slough Ests. 8pc Cv. 91/94	24.88	120.00	78.0	80-91	6.7	5.4	14.0	8 to 17	26.4	46.4	18.9	+ 5.0

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ‖ Income on convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◊ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness. − is an indication of relative dearness. & Second date is assumed date of conversion. necessarily the last date of conversion.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Christmas Account begins on quiet, but steady, note Long Gilts and many leading shares edge higher

Account Dealing Dates

Option

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Dec. 8	Dec. 22	Dec. 23	Jan. 5
Dec. 24	Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 19
Jan. 12	Jan. 22	Jan. 23	Feb. 2

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9 am two business days earlier.

Wednesday's shortened session in London stock markets was the first of a new trading Account, and holiday influences were predominant. Business in the two main investment sectors was down to a trickle long before the official 1 pm close but most leading shares ended a shade firmer after being slightly easier at the outset on overnight Wall Street indications; down 1.7 at the first calculation of the day, the FT Industrial Ordinary share index closed 0.2 up on balance at 466.9.

The undertone in British Funds stayed firm on the further cutsinU.S.P rimeRatesr cuts in U.S. Prime rates, but quotations were narrowly mixed at the end. Interest accruing over the holiday period added small amounts to mediums and longs, but shorter-dated issues tended to ease fractionally.

Demand for Traded options was understandably low, contracts completed amounting to a meagre 82. The daily average for the short week was 557.

Interest in the banking sector was at an extremely low ebb during the shortened session, but Discount Houses made progress in places. Allen Harvey and Ross added 10 to 365p in a restricted market, while Seccombe Marshall and Campion, 255p, and Gerrard and National, 288p, rose 5 and 3 respectively. Elsewhere, Bank Leumi (UK) put on 10 to 180p and Bank of Ireland rose 5 to 290p. Sterling Credit hardened 1½ to 9p.

Reports of a late Christmas spending spree failed to inspire a sluggish drinks sector. Distillers eased a penny to 188p, but other Wines and Spirits held the overnight levels.

Leading Buildings closed lower in places, Blue Circle softening a couple of pence to 334p and London Brick ½ to 62½p. Among secondary issues, Bett Brothers added 4 to a high for the year of 50p, while Leyland Paint firmed 1½ for a two-day gain of 4½ to 31p on speculative interest. Wilson (Connolly) shed 4 to 120p in a thin market.

Still reflecting the company's reduced interest in the Ninian Field, ICI lost 2 for a two-day fall of 8 to 318p. Fisons held at 196p. Arrow Chemical came in for support and improved 2 to 29p.

Narrowly mixed movements were the order of the day in Stores. British Home, 144p, and Debenhams, 77p, firmed a penny apiece, but Mothercare gave up 2 to 222p. Away from the leaders, Owen Owen dipped 4 to 106p.

Among the few scattered movements in Engineers, Guest Keen, up 2 more at 143p, continued to benefit from the company's joint acquisition with Brambles Industries of Australia of Redland Purle. Favourable Press mention stimulated a gain of 4 to 25½p in Birmid Qualcast.

J. Sainsbury were again favoured in Food Retailers and hardened 2 afresh to a 1980 peak of 347p. Nurdin and Peacock also added 2, to 217p, but Robertson shed that much, to 91p.

Miscellaneous industrials were featured by a rise of 7 to 80p in Renwick on the announcement that Kangra International Holdings had acquired a near-15 per cent stake in the company at a price of 85p per share; Renwick are already in receipt of a bid from AAH. Philip Harris rose 8 to 60p on hopes of a second-half recovery, while Pritchard Services hardened a penny to 117p on Press comment. Further consideration of the deal whereby St. George's Laundry has acquired the whole of Provincial's laundry business for £1.35m left the former a couple of pence better at 89p. Bowater added 4 to 188p on Canadian drilling hopes, while improvements of 3 were seen in Alpine, 61p, De La Rue, 783p, and Kennedy Smale, 111p. Far-Eastern influences helped Jardine Matheson rise 11 more to 215p and Swire Pacific 3½ to 90p.

Fresh speculative buying in a market short of stock lifted Associated Leisure 6 for a two-day gain of 12 to 128p. Horizon Travel, still responding to reports of increased holiday bookings, added a penny more to 129p.

Motor sectors traded quietly and movements were restricted to a penny or so either way. In Components, recently firm Kwik-Fit eased a fraction to 92½p but Lucas closed a couple of pence to the good at 193p.

Oils finished the short trading session with mixed movements. Among the leaders, BP eased 2 to 426p, but Shell edged up that amount to 474p. Tricentrol, 328p, and Ultramar, 505p, firmed 4 and 5 respectively. Among the more speculative exploration issues, Sovereign were noteworthy for a rise of 15 to 435p, while Gas and Oil Acreage continued in demand and put on 20 more to 470p. Ranger gained 10 further to 850p following the company's award of a bigger share in the Ninian oilfield. Berkeley Exploration improved 5 to 260p and KCA gained 4 more to 185p.

Trusts trended firmer, Aberdeen rising 5 to 180p. Derby Trust 2 to 259p and GT Japan a similar amount to 262p. Among Financials, Mercantile House responded afresh to the U.S. acquisition with a gain of 20 to 495p.

Textiles held close to the overnight positions; exceptionally, Small and Tidmas jumped 10 to 65p in a thin market.

In Tobaccos, Bats, at 238p, recovered most of the previous day's fall of 5. Imperial, down to 69p earlier, closed unchanged on balance at 70½p.

Mining markets ended the shortened week in fine form although activity on Wednesday was down to minimal levels. South African Golds moved ahead for the third successive day as the bullion price held steady and closed unchanged at $604.50 an ounce.

The heavyweights attracted most of the buying interest with Randfontein outstanding and finally £1½ up at £40½, while improvements of between ½ and a full point were common to Buffels, £22½ ex-dividend, West Driefontein, £41 ex-dividend, and Western Holdings, £40.

The Gold Mines index eased 1.3 to 441.3 owing to many of the constituents going "ex" the December dividends.

London-based Financials were mixed but South Africans made further good progress. "Amgold" added £1½ at £54 while GFSA closed ½ firmer at £39½.

Platinums edged higher in sympathy with Golds, Impala gaining 5 to 380p and Rustenburg 4 to 276p.

Another good performance in overnight domestic markets left Australians showing strong gains. North West Mining rose 17 to 138p and Haoma Gold 15 to 154p ex their respective rights issues. Gold gained ground with North Kalgurli 6 up at 89p and Kitchener Mining 25 better at 275p.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Dec. 24	Dec. 23	Dec. 22	Dec. 19	Dec. 18	Dec. 17	A year ago
Government Secs.	69.06	68.99	69.06	68.58	68.05	67.53	65.48
Fixed Interest	70.75	70.74	70.38	70.07	69.91	69.96	66.05
Industrial Ord.	466.9	466.7	464.6	466.5	466.5	466.5	417.5
Gold Mines	†441.3	442.6	441.4	428.0	435.1	433.8	262.2
Ord. Div. Yield	7.62	7.63	7.65	7.63	7.64	7.63	7.79
Earnings, Yld.%(full)	17.06	17.06	17.11	17.05	17.14	17.12	19.38
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	7.18	7.19	7.17	7.19	7.14	7.15	6.35
Total Bargains	—	16,170	16,070	18,210	16,318	16,985	6,926
Equity turnover £m.	—	102.77	89.08	96.00	105.47	115.20	25.17
Equity bargains total	—	12,716	11,897	10,670	11,073	12,692	4,621

10 am 465.0. 11 am 465.7. Noon 463.7. 1 pm —. 2 pm —. 3 pm —.

Latest Index 01-248 8023.

*Nil = 6.63.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 16/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial 1/7/55. Gold Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

†Cum. Div. 451.1.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Compil'ti'n High	Since Compil'ti'n Low
Govt. Secs.	72.54 (21/7)	63.85 (7/5)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	74.08 (24/7)	64.70 (10/6)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind.Ord.	515.9 (21/11)	406.9 (3/1)	558.6 (4/5/79)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	558.9 (22/9)	265.5 (18/5)	558.9 (22/9/80)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Dec. 24	Dec. 23
—Daily		
Gilt Edged	72.3	90.4
Industrials	57.9	72.6
Speculative	25.6	32.8
Totals	31.3	52.3
5-day Avrge.		
Gilt Edged	86.6	90.4
Industrials	61.1	67.7
Speculative	28.0	29.8
Totals	45.7	50.2

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Series		Jan. Vol.	Jan. Last	April Vol.	April Last	July Vol.	July Last	Stock
ABN C	F.280	—	—	1	21	—	—	F.288.50
ABN C	F.300	3	3.60	1	11	—	—	"
AKZO C	F.17.50	5	0.40	49	1.10	—	—	F.16.80
AKZO P	F.15	—	—	—	—	3	1.20	"
AKZO P	F.17.50	—	—	9	1.40	—	—	"
AMRO C	F.55	—	—	10	7.20	2	—	F.60.90
AMRO C	F.60	—	—	1	4.40	—	7.50	"
AMRO C	F.65	—	—	1	1.50 B	—	—	"
HEIN C	F.50	—	—	5	5	—	—	F.50.40
HEIN P	F.55	—	—	5	2.40	—	—	"
HOOG C	F12.50	—	—	2	2.10	—	—	F.13.60
HOOG C	F.17.50	—	—	100	0.30	—	—	"
IBM C	$60	15	8⅝	—	—	—	—	$67⅝
IBM C	$65	10	4	—	—	—	—	"
IBM P	$70	11	1½	22	4½	—	—	"
IBM P	$65	6	1	9	2½	—	—	"
IBM P	$70	2	3¼	—	—	—	—	"
KLM C	F.55	—	—	3	2.40	—	—	F.57.80
NATN C	F.120	1	0.90	5	4.90	—	—	F.118.30
NATN P	F.110	—	—	1	2	—	—	"
PHIL C	F.15	—	—	65	1.30	9	1.60	F.14.80
PHIL C	F.17.50	—	—	30	0.60	—	—	"
PHIL C	F.20	—	—	1	0.20	—	—	"
PHIL P	F.15	10	0.20	5	0.60	—	—	"
POLA C	$50	—	—	—	—	5	2⅝	$25
OLIE C	F.170	6	45.30 A	—	—	—	—	F.214.30
OLIE C	F.200	11	16.50 A	—	—	—	—	"
OLIE C	F.220	35	4 A	32	13	2	14.80 A	"
OLIE C	F.240	51	0.50	11	6.60	—	—	"
OLIE P	F.180	—	—	1	1.20	—	—	"
OLIE P	F.190	51	0.30	51	2.80	—	—	"
OLIE P	F.200	27	1.10	4	5.50	—	—	"
OLIE P	F.220	2	7.80 B	—	—	2	20	"
UNIL C	F.120	2	3.40	7	7.20	—	—	F.122.90
UNIL C	F.130	—	—	5	2.50	—	—	"
		Feb.		May		Aug.		
BOEI P	$35	10	⅛	—	—	—	—	$41
SLUM C	$100	4	23¾	—	—	—	—	$119½
SLUM C	$110	16	16½	—	—	—	—	"
SLUM C	$120	24	9½	—	—	—	—	"

TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS 756

A=Asked B=Bid C=Call P=Put

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank 14 %	■ Guinness Mahon §14 %
Allied Irish Bank 14 %	■ Hambros Bank 14 %
American Express Bk. 14 %	C. Hoare & Co. †14 %
Amro Bank 14 %	Hongkong & Shanghai 14 %
Henry Ansbacher 14 %	Keyser Ullmann 14 %
A P Bank Ltd. 14 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd. 16 %
■ Arbuthnot Latham 14 %	Langris Trust Ltd. 14 %
Associates Cap. Corp. 14 %	Lloyds Bank 14 %
Banco de Bilbao 14 %	Edward Manson & Co. 15 %
BCCI 14 %	Midland Bank 14 %
Bank of Cyprus 14 %	■ Samuel Montagu 14 %
Bank of N.S.W. 14 %	■ Morgan Grenfell 14 %
Banque Belge Ltd. 14 %	National Westminster 14 %
Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise S.A. 14½ %	Norwich General Trust 14 %
Barclays Bank 14 %	P. S. Refson & Co. 14 %
Bremar Holdings Ltd. 15 %	Rossminster 14 %
Brit. Bank of Mid. East 14 %	Ryl. Bk. Canada (Ldn.) 14 %
■ Brown Shipley 14 %	Slavenburg's Bank(NV) 14 %
Canada Perm't Trust 15 %	E. S. Schwab 14 %
Cayzer Ltd. 14 %	Security Trust Co. Ltd. 15 %
Cedar Holdings 14 %	Standard Chartered 14 %
■ Charterhouse Japhet 14 %	Trade Dev. Bank 14 %
Choulartons 15 %	Trustee Savings Bank 14 %
C. E. Coates 14 %	Twentieth Century Bk. 14 %
Consolidated Credits 14 %	United Bank of Kuwait 14 %
Co-operative Bank *14 %	Whiteaway Laidlaw 14½ %
Corinthian Secs. 14 %	Williams & Glyn's 14 %
The Cyprus Popular Bk. 14 %	Wintrust Secs. Ltd. 14 %
Duncan Lawrie 14 %	Yorkshire Bank 14 %
Eagil Trust 14 %	
E. T. Trust Limited 14 %	
First Nat. Fin. Corp. 16½ %	
First Nat. Secs. Ltd. 16 %	
Robert Fraser 14 %	
Antony Gibbs 14 %	
Greyhound Guaranty 14 %	
Grindlays Bank ‡14 %	

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 11½%. 1-month deposits 11¾%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, and over £50,000 12½%.
‡ Call deposits £1,000 and over 11½%.
§ 7-day deposits 12%.

OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Jan. 5	Jan. 16	Apr. 8	Apr. 21
Jan. 19	Jan. 30	Apr. 29	May 11
Feb. 2	Feb. 13	May 14	May 26

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Call options were arranged in Lonrho, Pennine Resources, Howard Tenens, Raglan Property, Associated Communications, William Press, Burmah, Trident TV A, Suter Deferred and Hampton Trust. No puts or doubles were reported.

RISES AND FALLS

	Yesterday Up	Yesterday Down	Yesterday Same	On the week Up	On the week Down	On the week Same
British Funds	57	12	28	156	24	105
Corpns. Dom. and Foreign Bonds	21	—	41	75	5	106
Industrials	175	104	1,114	496	515	3,168
Financial and Prop.	75	26	394	253	163	1,059
Oils	31	13	24	62	56	86
Plantations	1	2	21	7	10	55
Mines	59	15	90	152	101	239
Others	40	43	74	141	146	183
Totals	459	215	1,784	1,342	1,020	5,011

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS. Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section

	Equity Groups & Sub-sections	Wed., Dec. 24, 1980 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Tues., Dec. 23 Index No.	Mon., Dec. 22 Index No.	Fri., Dec. 19 Index No.	Thurs., Dec. 18 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (170)	282.29	−0.1	15.62	5.85	7.86	282.54	282.56	283.07	283.10	214.49	299.81 (21/11)	208.87 (3/1)	299.81 (21/11/80)	50.71 (13/12/74)
2	Building Materials (27)	238.81	−0.2	19.45	7.23	6.12	239.37	238.80	239.41	239.74	198.21	268.14 (21/7)	194.00 (3/1)	270.52 (8/5/79)	44.27 (11/12/74)
3	Contracting, Construction (26)	397.24	+0.1	22.97	6.38	5.22	396.96	396.79	397.88	399.52	325.18	437.01 (18/9)	313.00 (3/1)	451.74 (4/5/79)	71.48 (2/12/74)
4	Electricals (17)	939.36	—	10.41	2.89	11.93	939.60	942.60	942.75	936.37	554.54	983.55 (1/12)	539.56 (2/1)	983.55 (1/12/80)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5	Engineering Contractors (11)	394.81	−0.3	15.42	6.55	8.29	395.84	397.63	398.05	395.13	289.73	398.24 (17/12)	264.74 (30/5)	429.78 (4/5/79)	64.39 (2/1/75)
6	Mechanical Engineering (73)	170.56	−0.2	17.39	7.72	7.14	170.93	170.86	171.41	171.90	150.29	190.20 (18/7)	146.46 (3/1)	211.08 (8/5/79)	45.43 (6/1/75)
8	Metals and Metal Forming (16)	134.15	+0.1	21.56	11.84	5.79	133.95	132.53	133.05	136.28	146.18	173.09 (18/7)	132.53 (22/12)	192.29 (4/5/79)	49.65 (6/1/75)
11	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (48)	230.33	+0.1	13.53	5.26	8.89	230.13	230.73	230.34	231.18	192.48	253.81 (12/9)	184.82 (3/1)	259.88 (8/5/79)	38.39 (6/1/75)
12	Lt. Electronics, Radio, TV (14)	357.43	+0.1	10.50	3.98	11.64	357.00	358.48	359.14	361.54	259.46	397.87 (28/11)	247.36 (3/1)	397.87 (28/11/80)	42.85 (13/12/74)
13	Household Goods (13)	83.71	—	26.22	9.45	4.80	83.71	83.44	83.39	82.64	115.49	116.40 (2/1)	81.52 (12/12)	263.22 (4/5/72)	63.92 (17/12/74)
14	Motors and Distributors (21)	92.14	—	22.21	9.16	5.21	92.16	91.99	90.61	90.12	104.74	115.86 (29/1)	89.76 (11/12)	170.59 (15/1/69)	19.91 (6/1/75)
21	CONSUMER GOODS (NON DURABLES) (172)	234.67	—	16.91	6.82	7.20	234.60	234.09	236.60	236.67	204.31	252.42 (21/11)	200.15 (3/1)	269.81 (4/5/79)	61.41 (13/12/74)
22	Breweries (14)	261.61	−0.5	16.02	7.01	7.57	263.00	262.39	263.86	263.77	253.08	306.45 (8/7)	248.93 (3/1)	306.45 (8/7/80)	69.47 (13/12/74)
23	Wines and Spirits (5)	270.24	−0.4	22.84	7.60	5.14	271.43	269.06	270.55	266.69	295.65	338.01 (9/9)	266.69 (18/12)	352.29 (29/3/79)	78.88 (13/12/74)
24	Entertainment, Catering (16)	345.66	+0.4	16.69	6.39	7.37	344.30	344.21	344.40	346.06	273.73	365.42 (21/11)	268.87 (3/1)	374.32 (3/5/79)	54.83 (9/1/75)
25	Food Manufacturing (23)	209.19	−0.2	18.85	7.53	6.31	209.51	210.70	211.32	211.77	190.93	226.47 (18/9)	183.95 (28/3)	236.75 (4/5/79)	59.67 (11/12/74)
26	Food Retailing (14)	448.96	+0.2	10.44	3.45	11.33	448.02	444.75	444.43	442.08	291.92	456.94 (21/11)	286.28 (3/1)	456.94 (21/11/80)	54.25 (11/12/74)
32	Newspapers, Publishing (12)	424.99	+0.2	22.97	6.90	5.69	423.95	424.34	427.34	427.82	385.03	456.79 (1/10)	378.52 (3/1)	492.56 (8/5/79)	55.08 (6/1/75)
33	Packaging and Paper (15)	113.33	+0.8	28.49	10.75	4.06	112.44	111.39	112.93	113.25	116.56	140.51 (21/7)	111.20 (12/12)	155.65 (14/9/78)	43.46 (6/1/75)
34	Stores (44)	242.75	—	12.29	5.18	10.65	242.80	240.93	246.57	246.11	191.38	262.86 (21/11)	188.71 (3/1)	273.48 (4/5/79)	52.63 (6/1/75)
35	Textiles (21)	122.25	−0.1	20.84	10.89	6.22	122.35	122.09	123.45	123.37	125.97	140.52 (14/7)	116.89 (6/6)	235.72 (17/1/67)	62.66 (11/12/74)
36	Tobaccos (3)	195.18	+0.8	29.41	11.93	3.87	193.69	196.66	199.15	201.21	201.44	240.29 (12/9)	192.86 (3/1)	339.16 (2/8/72)	94.34 (13/6/62)
37	Toys and Games (5)	22.80	−0.8	—	5.93	—	22.99	23.17	23.03	23.03	47.59	47.59 (2/1)	22.26 (12/12)	135.72 (16/1/70)	20.92 (6/1/75)
41	OTHER GROUPS (98)	216.83	−0.2	16.26	7.32	7.34	217.30	217.84	218.23	217.16	188.19	230.85 (21/7)	184.19 (3/1)	234.76 (8/5/79)	58.63 (6/1/75)
42	Chemicals (15)	292.47	−0.3	18.07	8.34	6.48	293.38	295.98	298.52	295.97	281.05	326.53 (7/7)	276.80 (3/1)	329.77 (4/5/79)	71.20 (2/12/74)
43	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	255.56	+0.3	10.38	5.58	11.46	254.73	253.47	252.20	249.65	195.40	258.60 (21/11)	175.38 (28/5)	291.13 (14/9/78)	175.38 (28/5/80)
44	Office Equipment (6)	101.22	+0.4	20.31	8.22	5.76	100.84	101.29	102.29	102.45	104.61	123.10 (14/2)	95.26 (24/9)	246.06 (1/9/72)	45.34 (2/1/75)
45	Shipping (10)	538.56	+0.3	13.65	6.77	8.95	536.89	543.33	544.54	544.06	422.21	617.88 (22/8)	411.53 (10/1)	617.88 (22/8/80)	90.80 (29/6/62)
46	Miscellaneous (60)	261.67	−0.7	17.90	7.32	6.81	263.41	262.95	262.30	262.29	218.65	287.99 (31/7)	211.86 (3/1)	287.99 (31/7/80)	60.39 (6/7/75)
49	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (488)	249.44	−0.1	16.17	6.55	7.51	249.58	249.54	250.87	250.70	208.64	266.94 (21/11)	203.76 (3/1)	273.01 (4/5/79)	59.01 (13/12/74)
51	Oils (12)	937.84	−0.1	25.63	5.61	4.35	937.66	934.52	942.41	946.14	702.09	1065.24 (19/11)	668.86 (8/1)	1065.24 (19/11/80)	87.23 (29/5/62)
59	500 SHARE INDEX	305.78	−0.1	18.44	6.33	6.39	303.95	303.65	305.52	305.65	247.61	329.58 (21/11)	241.13 (3/1)	329.58 (21/11/80)	63.49 (13/12/74)
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (118)	230.90	+0.1	—	5.76	—	230.59	229.36	231.59	231.76	182.88	260.37 (28/10)	175.85 (3/1)	260.37 (28/10/80)	55.88 (13/12/74)
62	Banks (6)	244.46	—	41.85	6.98	2.86	244.53	243.13	246.05	248.18	222.52	271.75 (29/10)	201.01 (8/4)	288.32 (20/7/72)	62.44 (12/12/74)
63	Discount Houses (10)	285.29	+0.4	—	6.03	—	284.15	280.81	281.81	280.76	218.71	312.35 (21/11)	206.50 (18/3)	312.35 (21/11/80)	81.40 (10/12/74)
64	Hire Purchase (5)	193.77	−1.3	12.55	5.40	10.75	196.24	197.97	198.03	197.36	164.51	253.41 (24/7)	160.72 (3/1)	433.74 (4/5/72)	38.83 (11/12/74)
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	227.59	—	—	5.79	—	227.49	226.60	229.19	230.57	155.64	272.22 (28/10)	151.80 (3/1)	272.22 (28/10/80)	44.88 (2/1/75)
66	Insurance (Composite) (9)	144.38	+0.3	—	7.98	—	143.84	143.59	145.55	145.48	121.42	183.32 (18/9)	117.05 (3/1)	183.32 (18/9/80)	43.96 (13/12/74)
67	Insurance Brokers (9)	316.03	+0.1	14.58	7.33	9.40	315.59	313.11	315.02	317.42	266.51	366.44 (18/9)	256.48 (3/1)	372.27 (11/8/78)	65.86 (16/12/74)
68	Merchant Banks (13)	143.36	−0.1	—	5.40	—	143.51	143.31	143.02	142.59	90.09	164.30 (19/11)	87.47 (3/1)	278.57 (1/5/72)	31.21 (7/1/75)
69	Property (45)	437.41	+0.2	3.37	2.61	41.37	436.58	436.28	437.13	433.77	318.61	474.19 (12/9)	304.20 (3/1)	474.19 (12/9/80)	56.01 (20/4/65)
70	Miscellaneous (11)	165.59	+0.7	16.34	6.00	7.77	164.47	163.20	163.32	163.22	121.17	171.35 (27/11)	119.62 (3/1)	303.18 (18/5/72)	33.29 (17/12/74)
71	Investment Trusts (109)	282.11	−0.2	—	5.34	—	282.69	281.56	281.52	279.34	192.65	298.64 (29/10)	188.97 (3/1)	298.64 (29/10/80)	71.63 (13/12/74)
81	Mining Finance (3)	230.42	+0.3	14.25	5.82	8.37	229.67	229.67	229.96	230.30	160.94	277.15 (30/10)	161.95 (1/1)	277.15 (30/10/80)	66.31 (30/9/74)
91	Overseas Traders (20)	425.98	+0.6	11.86	6.89	10.22	423.36	424.95	428.01	423.01	331.79	462.79 (22/10)	330.03 (3/1)	462.79 (22/10/80)	97.37 (6/1/75)
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	289.14	—	—	6.16	—	289.16	253.75	290.45	290.37	230.76	313.07 (21/11)	225.06 (3/1)	313.07 (21/11/80)	61.92 (13/12/74)

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES

	British Government	Wed., Dec. 24	Day's change %	Tues., Dec. 23	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1980 to date
1	Under 5 years	107.28	+0.11	107.16	—	16.19
2	5-15 years	109.63	+0.13	109.48	—	13.18
3	Over 15 years	114.47	+0.16	114.29	—	14.84
4	Irredeemables	127.61	—	127.61	—	13.54
5	All stocks	110.20	+0.13	110.05	—	12.63

FIXED INTEREST YIELDS

British Govt. Av. Gross Red.

			Wed., Dec. 24	Tues., Dec. 23	Year ago (approx.)	1980 Highs	1980 Lows
1	Low Coupons	5 years	11.91	11.90	12.78	13.32 (4/3)	11.17 (21/7)
2		15 years	11.91	11.90	12.71	13.12 (4/3)	11.11 (21/7)
3		25 years	11.91	11.90	12.72	13.12 (4/3)	11.11 (21/7)
4	Medium Coupons	5 years	13.44	13.41	14.51	15.37 (4/3)	12.45 (21/7)
5		15 years	13.73	13.73	14.32	14.71 (4/3)	12.40 (21/7)
6		25 years	13.39	13.38	14.15	14.58 (4/3)	12.35 (23/7)
7	High Coupons	5 years	13.44	13.43	14.72	15.44 (4/3)	12.71 (17/7)
8		15 years	13.95	13.93	14.79	15.06 (4/3)	12.81 (21/7)
9		25 years	13.62	13.59	14.54	14.92 (4/3)	12.63 (23/7)
10	Irredeemables		11.56	11.54	12.16	12.53 (21/3)	10.80 (21/7)

		Wed., Dec. 24 Index No.	Yield %	Tues., Dec. 23	Mon., Dec. 22	Fri., Dec. 19	Thur., Dec. 18	Wed., Dec. 17	Tues., Dec. 16	Mon., Dec. 15	Year ago approx.	1980 Highs	1980 Lows	Since Compilation Highs	Since Compilation Lows
15	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	52.97	†13.58	52.55	52.69	52.88	52.67	52.68	52.93	56.28	49.66	55.65 (30/7)	48.12 (7/1)	113.43 (28/10/65)	37.06 (3/1/75)
16	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	51.35	15.15	51.56	51.55	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.52	46.21	52.61 (27/11)	46.34 (2/1)	114.41 (18/9/63)	34.45 (4/12/74)
17	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	67.98	15.25	67.65	67.63	67.76	67.83	67.63	67.10	66.97	61.19	68.58 (4/8)	60.92 (27/5)	114.96 (7/10/65)	47.67 (6/1/75)

Equity Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value	Equity Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Pharmaceutical Products	30/12/77	261.77	Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20
Other Groups	31/12/74	63.75	Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00	Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Engineering Contractors	31/12/71	153.84	Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Mechanical Engineering	31/12/71	153.84	Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Wines and Spirits	16/1/70	144.76	Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
Toys and Games	16/1/70	135.72	All Other	10/4/62	100.00
Office Equipment	16/1/70	128.20	British Government	31/12/75	100.00

† Redemption yield. A list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4, price 15p, by post 25p. A fortnightly record of group and subsection indices, dividend yields and earnings figures since 1962, with quarterly highs and lows of the indices, is obtainable from the Book Sales Department, FT Business Publishing Limited, Minster House, Arthur Street, London, EC4R 9AX, at £50 per copy.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −	Div. P. or Amount	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
$8	F.P.	5/2	335	318	✣Amer. Comm. Inds.	318	.....	—	—	—	—
$100	F.P.	5/2	£41¼	£40⅛	✣Do. Notes 20%	£40⅛	.....	Q 20%	—	26.5	—
610	F.P.	—	600	600	✣Cramphorn	600	.....	16.5	2.1	3.9	17.4
303	F.P.	21/1	432	370	✣Dunbar Group £1	425	.....	b6.2	4.4	2.1	15.5
$120	F.P.	5/2	220	162	✣Hadland J.	210	.....	u2.52	3.9	1.7	19.3
107‡	F.P.	12/1	134	113	Independent Inv. 25p	125	.....	—	—	—	—
$15	F.P.	—	33	26	††Intervision Pfd. 10p	30	.....	—	—	—	—
70	F.P.	9/1	99	78	✣Midland Marts	90	.....	b3.75	2.0	6.0	12.0
100	F.P.	23/1	104	97	New Tokyo Inv Tst 50p	104	.....	—	—	—	—
50	F.P.	—	51	47	††Pennine	47	.....	—	—	—	—
$25	F.P.	—	41	27	Phoenix Mining 25p	41	+1	—	—	—	—
$125	F.P.	12/12	230	155	✣Scan Data	230	−3	u2.0	2.5	1.2	46.6
148	F.P.	12/12	172	132	✣Thames Inv. & Secs.	154	.....	u5.18	1.2	5.5	20.8

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue price £	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price £	+ or −
‖	F.P.	29/12	102½	98⅞	Bell (Arthur) 9½% Cnv. Uns. Ln. 99-2001	99	.....
¶	£10	26/2	15¾	15	Chester Waterworks 9% Red. Pref. 1985	14½	.....
100p	F.P.	28/1	103½p	102p	Comben 11.375% Cum. Red. Pref.	103½p	+½
¶	£10	26/2	15½	14½	East Anglian Water 9% Red. Pref. 1985	15	....
¶	£10	—	15½	14¾	East Worcester 9% Red. Pref. 1985	15	....
‖	Nil	5/1	3pm	2pm	✣Energy Finance 8% Cnv. Uns. Ln. '95-2000	2pm	....
¶	£10	26/2	15	14½	Essex Waterworks 8¾% Red. Prf. 1985	14½	....
$100p	F.P.	—	126p	96p	††Intervision 7% Cnv. Pref.	118p	+1
£100	£50	30/4	46	44	Lon. Merchant Secs. 7½% CvUnsLn 2000-05	44½	..
99	F.P.	23/5	99½	98¾	Mid-Sussex W'rw'ks 14% Red. Deb. 186-88	99¼	..
✝	F.P.	—	32	20½	S. Rhodesia 4½% '87-92 Asstd.	31	....
**	F.P.	21/1	100p	98½p	Standard Industrial 11½% Pref	98½p	...
‖	F.P.	5/12	112	105½	Town CentreSecs. 9% Cnv. Uns. Ln. '96-2000	110	....
‖	F.P.	17/10	39	35¼	Western Deep 12% Uns. Deb. '86-93	37½	....
—	—	—	13	10	Do. Options	11	....
✝	F.P.	—	332	268	Zimbabwe settlement annuity Reg.	330	−2

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue price p:	Amount paid up	Latest Renunc. Date ●	Latest Renunc. Date ■	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing price p:	+ or −
30	Nil	5/1	23/1	4½pm	2pm	Bremar Trust	4pm	....
115	Nil	—	—	36½pm	22pm	Brotherhood P.	26½pm	....
75	F.P.	22/12	21/1	93	79	E. Midland Allied Press A	80	....
A$1.5	F.P.	24/11	15/12	80	55	ElderSmith GoldbroughM'rt	80	....
5	F.P.	8/12	21/1	7	5	Grovebell	6	.....
210	F.P.	16/12	14/1	256	225	Hampton Gold Mining	245	+5
140	F.P.	19/12	30/1	178	154	KCA Intnl.	176	+3
25	F.P.	10/12	9/1	42	31	Kean & Scott	35	+4
25	F.P.	19/12	4/2	26½	25	L.K. Industrial	26	....
$A1.05	F.P.	—	—	75	32	North Kalgurli Mines	60	+6
A$0.60	Nil	—	—	93pm	72pm	Oakbridge	90pm	..
87	F.P.	15/12	16/1	119	106	Pritchard Services	118	−1½
78	F.P.	15/12	22/1	95	91	Scapa	93	..
60	Nil	9/1	13/2	11pm	7pm	Security Centres	10pm	....
24¼	Nil	—	—	125pm	85pm	TNT	85pm	....
50p	F.P.	1/12	31/12	163	100	Viking Resources	110	−1

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. b Figures based on prospectus estimate. g Assumed dividend and yield. u Forecast dividend; cover based on previous year's earnings. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimate for 1979. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. ; Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. § Placing price to public. pt Pence unless otherwise indicated. ¶ Issued by tender. ‖ Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights." ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation, merger or takeover. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ★ With warrants. †† Dealings under special Rule. ✣ Unlisted Securities Market. ‡‡ London Listing. ✝ Resulting from debt settlement scheme. ‡‡ Units comprising 125 A Ord. & 6 12½% Cum. Pref.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1980

The following shares quoted in the Share Information Service yesterday attained new Highs and Lows for 1980.

NEW HIGHS (21)

BRITISH FUNDS (3)

Treas. Variable '82 [illegible]

Treas. Variable '83

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS (1)

S. Rho. [illegible]

AMERICANS (1)

Honeywell

BANKS (1)

Bank Leumi (U.K.)

BUILDINGS (1)

Bett Bros.

FOODS (1)

Sainsbury (J.)

INDUSTRIALS (4)

AGA AB [illegible]

Dover Corp. [illegible]

LEISURE (1)

Horizon

PROPERTY (1)

Trust Secs.

TRUSTS (2)

Aberdeen Invs. [illegible]

G.T. Japan

OIL & GAS (1) [illegible]

OVERSEAS TRADERS (1) [illegible]

MINES (2) [illegible]

NEW LOWS (18)

[illegible]

UNIT TRUST SERVICE

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS—contd.

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Abbey Unit Tst. Mngrs. (a) (z)
72-80, Gatehouse Rd., Aylesbury 0296 5941

Abbey Amer. Gth. Tst.	59.7	64.2	.....	2.26
Abbey Capital	43.5	47.0	.....	5.21
Abbey General	54.0	58.4	.....	5.27
Abbey Gilt & F.I. Tst.	105.4	110.9xd	.....	11.81
Abbey Income	32.2	34.8	.....	10.09
Abbey W'Wide Bd Tst.	92.5	97.7	.....	6.86
Abbey Inv. Tst. Fd.	48.4	52.3	.....	4.86
Equitas Prog. Tst.	79.1	85.5	.....	5.04

Allen Harvey & Ross Unit Tst. Mngrs.
45, Cornhill, London EC3V 3PB. 01-623 6314.

AHR Gilt Trust	89.3	94.0	.....	12.77

Allied Hambro Ltd. (a) (g)
Hambro Hse., Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
01-588 2851 or Brentwood (0277) 211459

Balanced Funds				
Allied 1st	84.8	90.7	+0.2	6.36
Brit. Inds. Fund	73.2	78.3xd	.....	6.82
Growth & Income	48.5	51.9	+0.1	5.36
Elect. & Ind. Dev.	42.2	45.2	+0.2	5.53
Allied Capital	91.0	97.4	+0.4	4.52
Hambro Fund	125.0	133.8xd	+0.2	6.46
Hambro Acc. Fund	173.0	185.1	+0.1	4.92
Income Funds				
High Yield Fd.	61.4	65.7	−0.1	9.51
High Income	74.2	79.5	.....	8.00
A. H. Eq. Inc.	43.5	46.5	.....	7.87
Govt. Secs.	25.3	26.0	.....	11.81
International Funds				
International	34.5	36.9	.....	2.68
Pacific Fund	60.4	64.6xd	+0.4	1.89
Secs. Of America	70.7	75.7xd	−0.3	2.11
Specialist Funds				
Smaller Co.'s Fd.	53.0	56.7	+0.1	4.43
2nd Smlr. Co's Fd.	62.7	67.3	.....	4.47
Recovery Sits.	126.8	135.7	+0.2	5.93
Met. Min. & C'dty.	67.7	72.4	.....	5.25
Overseas Earnings	65.0	69.6xd	+0.3	5.30
Exempt Funds				
Income Exempt	47.2	49.6xd	.....	8.57
Far East Exempt	65.6	68.2	+0.2	2.20
Smaller Co. Exempt	80.2	84.2	+0.3	4.75
U.S.A. Exempt	120.7	125.5	−0.4	2.79

Anderson Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
158, Fenchurch St., EC3M 6AA. 623 9231

Anderson U.T.	63.9	68.6	.....	4.16

Ansbacher Unit Mgmt. Co. Ltd.
1, Noble St., EC2V 7JA. 01-726 4931

Inc. Monthly Fund	150.0	160.0	.....	12.06

Arbuthnot Securities Ltd. (a)(c)
37, Queen St., London, EC4R 1BY. 01-236 5281

Capital†	33.8	36.4	.....	—
Commodity***	99.7	107.3	.....	2.51
(Accumulation)	156.1	167.9	.....	2.51
(10% Withdrawal)	75.2	80.9	.....	2.51
Eastern & Internatl.†	38.3	41.2	.....	1.00
(6% Withdrawal)	26.9	29.0	.....	1.00
Extra Income	93.0	100.0	.....	10.30
(Accumulation)	111.2	119.6	.....	10.30
Finance & Property*	23.9	25.5	.....	44.36
Foreign††	127.3	136.8	.....	1.00
Giants	45.8	49.3	+1.2	4.35
(Accumulation)	58.7	63.2	+1.6	4.35
Gilt & Fixed	43.4	45.5	.....	11.91
(Accumulation)	45.9	48.1	.....	11.91
Growth	43.9	47.3	+1.2	3.67
(Accumulation)	56.8	61.6	+1.6	3.67
High Income	36.8	39.5	+1.3	9.99
(Accumulation)	59.7	64.3	+2.1	9.99
(8½% Withdrawal)	49.5	53.3	+2.8	9.99
High Yield	43.1	46.4	+1.5	3.36
(Accumulation)	75.7	81.5	+2.7	3.36
North American††	36.5	39.3	.....	1.00
Preference	22.4	24.1	.....	13.68

Craigmount Unit Tst. Mgrs. Ltd.
Bucklersbury, London EC4N 8BD. 01-248 4984

High Income	34.0	37.2	.....	12.10
North American	60.2	65.0	.....	2.64
Canadian Exempt*	63.2	66.9	.....	3.50
Canadian Trust	64.5	69.8	.....	2.57
Mid Mount High Inc.*	46.9	49.7	.....	9.71
Recovery	52.8	57.7	.....	7.45
Gilt Trust	42.7	44.8xd	.....	12.91

*Weekly dealing day Wednesday.

Crescent Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd. (a)(g)
4 Melville Cres., Edinburgh 3 031-226 4931

Cres. Amer. Fd.	40.7	43.9	.....	0.85
Cres. Internat'l.	74.7	80.6	.....	1.79
Cres. High. Dist.	39.3	42.4	.....	11.49
Cres. Reserves	48.7	52.5	.....	5.48
Cres. Tokyo	28.0	30.2	.....	1.03

Dartington Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
Bridge Chambers, Barnstaple, Devon 0271 76324

Total Perf. Unit Tst.	24.0	25.4	.....	9.99

Discretionary Unit Fund Managers
36/38 New Broad St, EC2M 1NU. 01-638 4485

Disc. Inc. Dec. 23	216.7	231.2	.....	5.72

E. F. Winchester Fund Mngt. Ltd.
44, Bloomsbury Square, WC1A 2RA 01-623 8893

Great Winchester	17.4	19.2	.....	8.75
Gt. Winchester O'seas	25.8	28.4	.....	3.90

Emson & Dudley Tst. Mngmnt. Ltd.
28b Albemarle St., W1. 01-493 3211

Emson Dudley Tst.	88.4	95.1	.....	6.00

Equity & Law Un. Tr. M.♥ (a)(b)(c)
Amersham Rd., High Wycombe. 0494 33377

Equity & Law	85.3	89.7	.....	4.79

Fidelity International Management Ltd.
62-63 Queen St, London EC4 1AD 01-248 4891

American (z)	32.5	35.1	.....	0.82
Ameri.Spec. Sits. (z)	25.6	27.0	.....	0.90
Gilt + Fixed Int.	25.1	26.5	.....	12.21
Growth + Income	29.4	31.7xd	.....	7.82
Maximum Inc. Eq. Tst.	25.0	26.4	.....	9.74
Special Sits.	37.4	40.3	.....	2.01

James Finlay Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
10-14, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 041-204 1321

J. Finlay Internat'l	37.0	39.8	.....	2.26
Accum. Units	45.9	49.3	.....	2.26
J. Finlay High Income	33.5	36.0	.....	10.38
Finlay Wld. Energy	20.3	21.8	.....	1.40
Accum. Units	26.1	28.1	.....	1.40
J. Finlay Fd.In.Tst.	38.2	41.1	.....	5.64
Accum. Units	48.3	51.9	.....	5.64

Prices on December 18. Next dealing December 22.

Framlington Unit Mgt. Ltd. (a)
64, London Wall, EC2M 5NQ. 01-628 5181

Amer. & Gen. Dec. 22	70.4	75.2	.....	0.86
Am. T'around Dec. 22	64.6	69.0	.....	1.98
Capital Tst.	57.0	60.8	.....	5.57
(Accum. Units)	59.4	63.4	.....	5.57
Extra Income Trust	47.2	50.4	.....	10.76
Income Tst.	37.0	39.4xd	.....	8.49
Int. Growth Fd.	58.4	62.4	.....	1.98
(Accum. Units)	62.8	67.0	.....	1.98

Friends' Provdt. Trust Mgrs. (a) (b) (c).
Pixham End, Dorking. 0306 5055

Friends Prov. Units	57.4	61.3xd	.....	4.54
Do. Accum.	82.5	88.2	.....	4.54

Funds in Court*
Public Trustee, Kingsway, WC2. 01-405 4300

Capital Dec. 11	138.1	142.6	.....	4.91
Gross Inc. Dec. 11	81.7	84.5	.....	11.24
High Yield Dec. 11	93.6	97.9	.....	10.62

*Unauth. Restricted to monies under Court control.

G.T. Unit Managers Ltd.♥
16, Finsbury Circus, EC2M 7DJ. 01-628 8131

G.T. Cap. Income	140.6	151.1	.....	2.50
Do. Acc.	178.3	191.7	.....	2.50
G.T. Inc. Fd. Un.	199.3	214.2	.....	8.50
G.T. U.S. & Gen	206.0	221.4	.....	1.60
G.T. Wld. Bd. Fd.	94.4	98.3	.....	6.10
G.T. Japan & Gen	91.4	98.2	.....	1.60
♦Gt. Pens.Ex.Fd.	329.3	346.6	.....	1.60

M & G Group (y)(c)(z)
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588
See also Stock Exchange Dealings.

American	60.4	64.9	−0.2	2.14
(Accum. Units)	64.1	68.9	−0.2	2.14
American Recovery	60.8	64.5	−0.3	1.98
(Accum. Units)	62.5	66.3	−0.3	1.98
Australasian	121.3	129.8	+0.4	0.79
(Accum. Units)	126.6	135.5	+0.4	0.79
Commodity	132.6	143.9	−0.8	3.29
(Accum. Units)	154.1	167.2	−0.9	3.29
Compound Growth	161.6	175.3	−0.3	3.51
Conversion Growth	116.4	124.6	−0.2	3.16
Conversion Inc.	70.3	75.2	.....	10.93

Scottish Equitable Fnd. Mgrs. Ltd.♥
28 St. Andrews Sq. Edinburgh 031-556 9101

Income Units	60.6	64.5	.....	5.78
Accum. Units	77.2	82.1	.....	5.78

Dealing day Wednesday.
For Sebag see Carr, Sebag Unit Trust Managers.

Security Selection Ltd.
Regis Hse., King William St., EC4. 01-623 4951.

Unvl Gth Tst Acc	33.9	36.1	−2.7	8.12
Unvl Gth Tst Inc	26.1	27.8xd	−1.1	8.12

Stewart Unit Tst. Managers Ltd.(a)
45, Charlotte Sq., Edinburgh. 031-226 3271

Charterhouse Magna Gp.♥
Stephenson Hse., Brunel Centre, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. 0908 641272

Chrthse Energy	65.0	.....	—
Magna Bld. Soc.	158.7	.....	—
Magna Managed	270.4	.....	—

Chieftain Assurance Funds
11 New Street, EC2M 4TP. 01-283 3933

Managed Growth	179.91	189.38	+0.11	—
Managed Income	79.97	84.18	+0.25	—
International (z)	120.67	127.03	−0.49	—

Imperial Life Ass. Co. of Canada
Imperial House, Guildford. 71255

Growth Fund Dec. 19	101.0	109.7	.....	—
Pen. Man. Fd. Dec. 19	92.6	100.6	.....	—
Unit Linked Portfolio				
Managed Fund	116.6	122.7	.....	—
Fixed Int. Fd.	113.8	119.8	.....	—
Secure Cap. Fd.	116.0	122.1	.....	—
Equity Fund	130.2	137.1	.....	—
Property Fund	96.2	101.3	.....	—

Irish Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
Basildon House, 7/11 Moorgate, EC2. 01-606 8401

[illegible]

INSURANCE PROPERTY BONDS

[illegible]

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible]

Continued on previous page

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

[illegible]	[illegible]

Five to Fifteen Years

[illegible]	[illegible]

Over Fifteen Years

[illegible]	[illegible]

Undated

[illegible]	[illegible]

INTERNATIONAL BANK

88 | 78 | 5pc Stock '77-82	87½ | +¼ | 5.72 | 13.21

CORPORATION LOANS

[illegible]	[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+ or -	Int.	Red.
92¼	82¼	Aust. 5½pc '81-82	92¼	.....	6.05	13.63
85¼	72½	Do. 6pc 1981-83	83¾	+¼	7.29	13.07
67¾	58	N.Z. 7½pc 1988-92	64xd	+¼	11.32	15.49
82¾	72	Do. 7½pc '83-86	78½xd	+½	9.59	13.22
96¼	88	Sth. Africa 9½pc '79-81	96¼	+¼	9.98	15.71
160	95	S. Rhod. 2½pc Non-Ass.	113	+2	—	—
49	31	Do. 3½pc 80-85 Assd.	49	+2	7.39	21.00
32	20½	Do. 4½pc 87-92 Assd.	32	.....	14.27	21.80

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

[illegible]	[illegible]

Financial

[illegible]	[illegible]

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

[illegible]	[illegible]

AMERICANS

[illegible]	[illegible]

CANADIANS

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Div. Gross	Cvr	Yld Gr's
[illegible]							
14	770p	Incoll	840p				
565p	425p	Inl. Nat. Gas $1	505p	+15	$1.00	—	6.9
495p	145p	Massey Ferg.II	155p	.....	—	—	—
200p	97p	Place Gas $1	120p	+10	—	—	—
14⅞	10½	Rio Algom	12½	.....	$1.50	—	4.2
21⅝	14⅞	Royal Bk.Can. $2	20½	—⅛	$2.72	—	4.7
27½	15⅞	Seagram Co. C$1	25¾	.....	US$1.40	—	2.2
13⅞	890p	Tor. Dom. Bk. $1	117⁄8xd	—¼	$1.52	—	4.5
10½	750p	Trans Can. Pipe	790p	—15	$1.16	—	5.2

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

[illegible]	[illegible]

Hire Purchase, etc.

[illegible]	[illegible]

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

[illegible]	[illegible]

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER AND ROADS

[illegible]	[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]	[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES

[illegible]	[illegible]

ELECTRICALS

[illegible]	[illegible]

ELECTRICALS—Continued

[illegible]	[illegible]

ENGINEERING MACHINE TOOLS

[illegible]	[illegible]

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

[illegible]	[illegible]

FOOD, GROCERIES—Cont.

[illegible]	[illegible]

HOTELS AND CATERERS

[illegible]	[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

[illegible]	[illegible]

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445	55	Colby Res. Corp.	250	......	—	—	—
502	240	Cons. Murch. 10c.	250	......	†Q30c	3.8	6.9
180	80	††Hemerdon 10c.	85	......	—	—	—
225	36	Highwood Res.	170	+5	—	—	—
585	325	Northgate C$1	375	−5	—	—	—
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£115	£101	Do. 9¾% Cnv. 75-2000	£102	......	Q9½%	—	f8.7
49	16	Robert Mines	30	−3	—	—	—
130	91	††SPO Minerals 10p	130	+8	—	—	—
58	26	Sabina Inds. C$1.	40	......	—	—	—
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NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ■ "Tap" Stock.
- • Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- ♀ USM; not listed on Stock Exchange and company not subjected to same degree of regulation as listed securities.
- †† Dealt in under Rule 163(2)(a); not listed on any Stock Exchange and not subject to any listing requirements.
- ‡‡ Dealt in under Rule 163(3).
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividends or forecasts.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♣ Not comparable.
- ♠ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ** Regional price.
- || No par value.

§§ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock. a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981-82. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xR ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

Albany Inv. 20p	39	......
Bertam	11	......
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	515	......
Craig & Rose £1	£11	......
Fife Forge	39	......
Finlay Pkg. 5p	21	−2
Graig Ship. £1	£19	......
Higsons Brew.	67	......
Holt (Jos) 25p	315	......
I.O.M. Stm. £1	162	......
Pearce (C. H.)	635	......
Peel Mills	57	......
Sheff. Refrshmt	92	......
Sindall (Wm.)	141	......

IRISH

Conv. 9% '80/82	£93⅞	......
Nat. 9¼% 84/89	£79⅝	+⅛
Fin. 13% 97/02	£86½	+⅛
Alliance Gas	52	......
Arnott	235	......
Carroll (P.J.)	75xd	......
Concrete Prods.	83	......
Helton (Hldgs.)	33	......
Ins. Corp.	320	......
Irish Ropes	33xd	+1¼
Jacob	54	......
T.M.G.	26	......
Unidare	62	−1

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials

A. Brew	7
BOC Intl.	9
B.S.R.	4½
Babcock	12
Barclays Bank	40
Beecham	15
Blue Circle	30
Boots	20
Bowaters	22
B.A.T.	25
Brown (J.)	8
Burton	10
Cadburys	6
Courtaulds	6½
Debenhams	8
Distillers	17
Dunlop	7½
Eagle Star	24
F.N.F.C.	4
Gen. Accident	32
Gen. Electric	50
Glaxo	22
Grand Met.	14
G.U.S. 'A'	48
Guardian	32
G.K.N.	16
Hawker Sidd	20
House of Fraser	15
I.C.I.	28
"Imps"	7½
I.C.L.	14
Inveresk	3
Ladbroke	24
Legal & Gen.	20
Lex Service	10
Lloyds Bank	28
"Lofs"	4
London Brick	6
Lucas Inds.	20
"Mams"	18
Mrks. & Spncr	9
Midland Bank	32
N.E.I.	7
Nat. West. Bank	32
P & O Dfd.	12
Plessey	25
Racal Elect	35
R.H.M.	4
Rank Org.	16
Reed Intnl.	18
Sears	5
Tesco	5½
Thorn	28
Trust Houses	18
Tube Invest.	21
Unilever	50
U.D.T.	5
Utd. Drapery	6½
Vickers	15
Woolworths	5½

Property

Brit. Land	8
Cap. Counties	11
Land Secs.	35
MEPC	20
Peachey	17
Samuel Props.	15
Town & City	3

Oils

Brit. Petroleum	90
Burmah Oil	20
Charterhall	13
KCA	22
Premier	14
Shell	45
Tricentrol	40
Ultramar	50

Mines

Charter Cons.	30
Cons. Gold	55
Lonrho	10
Rio T. Zinc	45

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 18

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Saturday December 27 1980

MAN OF THE YEAR

Lech Walesa's Polish summer

FOR 10 YEARS Lech Walesa carried a burning ambition—to see justice done to those who lost their lives in the bloody suppression of the workers' uprising in the Baltic shipyards in December 1970. Exactly 10 years later, on December 16 this year, this ambition, shared by thousands of fellow workers, was realised. The small wooden memorial cross, hurriedly set up in the Lenin shipyards at the start of last summer's strike wave, was replaced by a permanent monument 42 metres high. Around the monument stood several hundred thousand members of the Solidarity trade union which did not even exist four months earlier. On the ceremonial platform were the representatives of Poland's *main institutions—the Polish* Communist Party, the Catholic Church—and Solidarity itself, in the person of Mr. Walesa.

But a desire for justice was *not the only driving force* behind the 37 year old unemployed electrician whose walrus moustache, shabby suit, and shrewd eyes have made him the immediately recognisable symbol throughout the world of Poland's revolt against a corrupt and incompetent system. For this unmistakable man of the people with his limited formal education, and his poor working class background also struggled for a decade to create genuine, free trade unions which would honestly represent

the interests of the working class.

This struggle cost him his job and persistent police harassment. He was arrested frequently. Like so many Poles his main supports in adversity were his deeply felt Catholicism and devotion to his family.

It was during these years that Lech Walesa gained the confidence of his former workmates and the strength of purpose which changed him, virtually overnight, into the spokesman of the hopes, fears and aspirations of millions of Poles. Four months ago it was impossible to tell how the snowballing strike effect would end. The fear of another bloodbath was real.

The ultimate long-term consequences of the Polish summer are still largely unforseeable. But a sort of revolution has occurred in Poland, without a *drop of blood having been spilt.* The ruling Communist party has been successfully challenged—and has been encouraged to reform itself rather than seek revenge. The strength of the Polish spirit has been evoked—and has obliged Poland's Socialist neigbours to act with caution.

Above all free trade unions have been both established and legitimised—creating an extraordinary precedent in the Communist world at large. Mr. Walesa proved to be the right man at the right time, but he never hesitates to underline that he is merely the spokesman for the working class and that Polish workers themselves are the basis and strength of the movement.

The price of fame and responsibility has, however, been high.

His family life has taken a battering, as has that of many activists at work for most of the day an dnight in the new union. Breakfast at the Walesa home with his wife and six children, aged from 11 years to six weeks, is often attended by foreign reporters and an American TV crew or two.

Mr. Walesa's political views are still largely unrefined. He is sincere when he says that he is a trade unionist and has no interest in party politics. He sums up his attitude to the system in Poland like this: "We were born into a Socialist system, I don't know any other system, and we won't permit anyone to turn us away from Socialism."

Despite his considerable popularity however he now faces criticism inside the Gdansk regional union leadership for being too soft on the authorities. He is also being accused of coming too much under the influence of the Catholic Church. which is clearly in favour of moderate policies.

The whole question of the participation of members of dissident groups in Solidarity is also open to debate. *The authorities* have made it clear that they would like to have the union clear of dissident influence.

The problem is touchy as Mr. *Walesa too has shown signs of* impatience with the dissidents. The debate over tactics colours the way people see the union leader. Dissident sympathisers are apt to speak disparagingly of him. Senior church officials admire his moderation and determination. Government officials also speak highly of the way that Mr. Walesa has come to appreciate the realities of governing Poland over the past four months.

Mr. Walesa's influence is considerable, but limited. The union *is a decentralised one* and regions can take their own decisions without asking permission.

In the end, however, it is Mr. Walesa who will have to map out the path between the need to defend union independence and the demands of the Polish Communist Party and its Eastern European partners who are both fearful and suspicious of the changes which he did so much to bring about.

THE LEX COLUMN

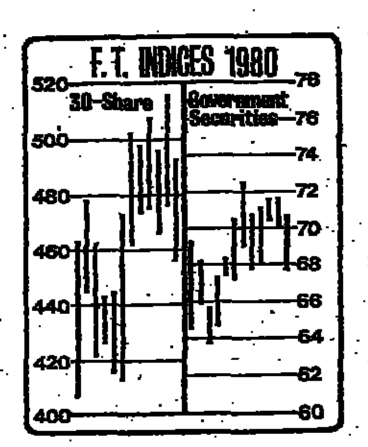
The City's uneasy prosperity

It has been a record year for business on the London Stock Exchange. The major market indices have all been moving higher; the All-Share Index is 25 per cent above its level of a year ago, and the Government Securities Index is a little more than 5 per cent higher. So it has been a prosperous Christmas in the City.

Prosperous, but not entirely happy. British industry is suffering from the most acute recession in living memory, while the Government's fiscal and monetary policies, which were already in some difficulty a year ago, are now in a dreadful mess. Nominal interest rates remain very high, despite the weakness of the economy, and sterling is still grossly overvalued in terms of industry's competitive position.

A year ago it seemed reasonable to expect that 1980 would bring a cyclical upturn in the stock market, as the demand for credit eased and investors began *to look beyond* the recession. There was a widespread belief that interest rates would fall steeply in the early part of the year, and that the Government's tightening grip on the monetary aggregates would reduce the need for new issues of gilt-edged stock.

Index 0.2 to 466.9



Loan demand

For a little while events appeared to follow this happy path. But it soon became clear that things were not quite right. For a start, bank lending to companies remained obstinately high, the result of involuntary stockbuilding, tumbling profits and a collapse in demand which ran ahead of a major de-stocking effort.

And then Public Sector Borrowing Requirement started to go wrong. It was one thing for the Chancellor to project in his Budget that the PSBR, as a proportion of national output, would fall back steadily over the next few years. The trouble was that people soon began to realise that the tide was running strongly in the wrong direction.

In November, the Treasury confirmed what the markets had long suspected—that the PSBR for the current year will be more like £11½bn than the original forecast of £8½bn, and even the revised figure may be too low. The effects of the Clegg commission on the public sector wage bill and, more recently, of the deepening recession have combined to wreck the Chancellor's estimates.

The final straw was the publication of the July banking figures, the first set to reflect the removal of the "corset" controls. They showed that sterling M3 had risen by 5 per cent in a single month, and proved that the corset had so distorted earlier statistics as to make them virtually worthless.

By this time the Government had been forced to retreat from its single-minded adherence to one monetary *statistic* as a guide to policy. In November 1979, a slight overshoot of the monetary targets had brought a jump in interest rates and a crash funding programme. By contrast a year later, with the sterling M3 measure of money 20 per cent higher, Minimum *Lending Rate* was actually reduced by two points.

The justification for this cut was twofold. The first was the manifest weakness of the economy: manufacturing output in the August/October quarter was 12 per cent below the 1979 level, and it was becoming evident that bank credit was at last tailing off. Secondly, the combination of strong sterling, falling commodity prices and the plight of the corporate sector has brought inflation down fast. In the six months to November retail prices rose by little more than 4 per cent.

But this victory has been dearly bought. High sterling and high interest rates have borne almost exclusively on the private sector, and the result has been a dizzying fall in demand. This in turn has led to a sharp rise in unemployment, vicious destocking—which is still continuing—reductions in capital spending, and dividend cuts. In the first quarter of the year, *although everyone was talking* about the recession, demand was actually quite strong. But almost overnight, orders dried up at the beginning of April, and the economy has been in a downward spin ever since.

All the same, the stock market made an all-time high in November when the *All-Share* Index stood at 313.07. There are two distinct explanations for this. One is that manufacturing industry accounts for a *dwindling proportion* of the equity market's total capitalisation, compared with oil, mining and financial stocks. BP, for example, is now capitalised at 30 times Guest Keen and Nettlefolds' market value. The other is that the old cyclical argument still has some force, and those companies which look capable of raising their dividends over the next few years—*the electricals,* for instance — have performed strongly.

Rights issues

In addition, the supply of new equities has not been anything like so high as the financial pressures on industry might have suggested. Indeed, apart *from* United Biscuits and Blue Circle Industries, the companies raising more than £20m through rights issues in 1980 have either been non-manufacturing companies or, as in the case of BTR for example, *looking* to spend the money on acquisitions abroad. The £1bn or so raised by way of rights this year has been more or less matched by funds returned to the market through cash take-overs or dawn raids.

The cash flow of the investing institutions, too, has remained very *strong—enough* to mop up the continuing high level of personal sector share sales, to buy more property and soak up plenty of gilt-edged *stocks. But a new factor* in the equation is the much higher level of investment overseas following the removal of exchange controls late last year. Institutions could have put anything up to £1bn into overseas securities during the third quarter of 1980 alone. The whole international investment scene is becoming more fluid, with heavy foreign buying supporting gilt-edged securities at various stages this year.

As a result, it has become very much harder to argue that the weight of institutional money will underwrite the price level of any particular market. These arguments might have been discredited anyway since the Government's financial difficulties have made a mockery of all those forecasts of a gilt-edged famine. Since coming to office, this Government has *issued nearly £26bn nominal of* gilt-edged stock, £17bn gross in 1980. These figures show why the City is at once profitable and uneasy.

Times group receives at least one bid

By John Lloyd

AT LEAST one bid for Times Newspapers (TNL) is understood to have been received. The closing date for bids is next Wednesday, December 31.

More than 30 memoranda on TNL's financial position were sent to companies seriously interested in acquiring the group. These companies included several domestic and overseas corporations, many of which already have newspaper interests.

The group's owner, International Thomson, made clear that it would prefer to sell the group as a whole rather than see the titles split up among several purchasers.

The bid or *bids* received are thought to have been for the entire group — The Times, Sunday Times and Times supplements.

However, two allied proposals for splitting The Times from the Sunday Times were advanced by Times staff. One approach is from Mr. William Rees-Mogg, The Times editor. The other is led by Mr. Hugh Stephenson, the editor of the paper's Business News.

Time runs out for The Times, Page 10

Hope of more Iran hostage talks

BY TERRY POVEY IN TEHRAN

IRAN'S chief negotiator in the 14-month-old hostage crisis yesterday appeared to hold out hope of a fresh round of negotiations with the U.S.

Mr. Behzad Nabavi said in an interview with CBS, the U.S. television network, that Iran was waiting to receive proposals from the U.S. Government and would study an alternative plan being put forward to cover the guarantees they sought.

Iran demanded $24bn (£10bn) in cash, gold and cash guarantees in return for 52 U.S. diplomats, demands the U.S. has described as "unreasonable."

Apparently surprised by negative and hostile U.S. reaction, Iran's Government wishes to be seen as trying to keep talks going, say diplomats in Tehran.

Before a domestic audience, however, Mr. Nabavi seemed as adamant as ever that Iran's terms remain the same. In a phone-in programme on Tehran radio yesterday he said: "The Iranian Government is merely the executor of something which has been approved by the Parliament and cannot neglect one iota of the conditions."

He said the Iranian Government thought the U.S. was trying to cheat it in the negotiations to date. "They thought they could send us 60 pages of proposals and get 52 hostages back in return," he said.

Observers in Tehran feel that there may be some room for manoeuvre if the U.S. can find a formula which both satisfies Iran's basic demands and meets the difficulties and objections raised by the U.S. Administra*tion.*

Considerable use is also being made by the Iranians of the various visits to the hostages over Christmas. As 49 of the 52 *hostages have not been seen for* month the visits—apart from their religious purpose—are intended to defuse speculation that some are seriously ill and/or badly treated.

Television film of Christmas ceremonies with the hostages is being used to re-establish individual identities of captives to the U.S. public.

Four Christian clergymen visited on Wednesday, and all 52 hostages were visited on Thursday by the Algerian Ambassador to Iran. Mr. Abdelkarim Gheraieb spent 12 hours telling hostages about release negotiations.

Mr. Gheraieb is one of three Algerian officials acting as mediators between Iran and the U.S. *He returned to Iran on* Thursday after delivering the latest proposals to the U.S. representatives in Algeria. "I spoke to all the 52 hostages in *groups,"* he said. They had all seemed in good health. Mr. Gheraieb is expected to leave Iran for Washington today.

A personal representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury arrived in Tehran yesterday in a separate move to seek release of three detained British missionaries and to try to resolve problems between the Islamic authorities and the small Anglican community.

Continued from Page 1

Gold

They were startled at having to declare their gold and pay up either at the airport Customs or when they brought the bullion into a bank.

The tax has also hit the fairly widespread deals under which central banks — mainly from developing countries, as well as from some Eastern bloc nations—discreetly bring into Switzerland part of their gold reserve to use as collateral for raising bank loans.

These transactions are liable to tax, which has prevented some collateral deals from being carried out this year. In other cases the gold being used as collateral has had to be stored at the airport or in a third country. At least one bank uses other transit sites in Switzerland, apart from Zurich airport, to minimise the risk of keeping gold all in one place.

Continued from Page 1

BL aid

Government not to back his plan *if there* is a prolonged dispute at BL. Yesterday, however, there were signs that the current strike at Longbridge, which has halted production *of the successful Metro model,* might be broken as a result of a split between the engineering and transport unions over the handling of the dispute.

The Transport and General Workers Union has declared the walkout, in protest at the dismissal of eight men alleged to have taken part in disorderly scenes at Longbridge, official.

But Mr. Terry Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, last night expressed concern about the decision. "I would have preferred an inquiry before any union deemed it official," he said. "But the Transport Union has the right *and I cannot take away its* prerogative."

He feared that, unless there was a return to work while an inquiry was conducted, the Government would refuse the additional finance requested by BL. "It is a tragedy that the Metro—the best model Leyland have had for many, many years —is not being produced,'5 he added.

He hoped a peace formula could be worked out in talks between the unions and BL on Monday following an initiative *over the Christmas period* by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

He would consider reports of the talks from his officials, but it would be for his executive committee to take any decisions on January 6—the day after BL has warned it will dismiss strikers who do not report for work after the Christmas holiday.

BL, which has stated that an official strike could destroy the volume car business within a few days and put more than 50,000 jobs at risk, insisted last night that it could not meet the transport unions' demand for an independent inquiry. The company would not go beyond the offer of a joint union/management inquiry with an ACAS official in attendance. "

Mr. Duffy thought the company's offer was acceptable. He did not think the question of reinstatement of the dismissed men posed an stumbling block. Some arrangement could be found—as happened in the case of Mr. Derek Robinson, the dismissed Longbridge convenor—to continue paying the men's wages without restoring them to the payroll, pending the outcome of any inquiry.

French car production slumps

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

FRENCH CAR manufacturers' resistance to the motor industry recession crumbled dramatically last month as exports dropped by more than 30 per cent and production fell by 28 per cent from the levels of a year before. France exports more than half its production.

The worst in a deteriorating series of monthly statistics left output so far this year lagging 8.8 per cent behind 1979, with exports, which fared relatively well until the summer, 9.5 per cent down on the first 11 months of last year.

Production for the year is now set to fall below the 3m mark compared with *3.22m* in 1979. And although the domestic market has shown a relatively moderate decline of under 6 per cent, the Motor Manufacturers' Association is concerned about the effect of mounting costs on sales in the next few months. The November figures showed a drop of 17 per cent in new car registrations compared with the same month last year.

The association said the industry, which has announced extensive redundancies and short-time working, would have *to continue running at a slower* rate throughout the winter, particularly if Japan's assault on *the Western market continued* with such intensity.

Japanese competition was blamed for the sharp fall in exports last month.

Production and sales of commercial vehicles also suffered a sharp setback in November, although the figures for the first 11 months are well up on a year before. Difficulties encountered by road haulage companies were seen as the main reason behind a 21 per cent drop in November registrations. Exports fell by 12 per cent, although for the *first 11 months* they were still 18.5 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Glut of used factory machines

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

THOUSANDS OF TONNES of second-hand factory machinery are being sold weekly at auctions and through private sales as a result of the tide of factory closures in Britain.

Much of the equipment is being sold abroad, particularly to U.S., but an even greater amount is being sold for scrap, reflecting a collapse in second-hand prices for a wide range of machinery since the first three months of this year.

More enforced plant and equipment sales are in the pipeline, judging by the recent level of inquiries received by agents and auctioneers.

For example, Henry Butcher, the commercial property agents, valuers and auctioneers, already has 22 separate auctions of second-hand factory machinery planned for the first quarter of 1981. In the same three months of 1980 the firm held only 10 auctions.

"The rate of factory closures arising during the first half of next year is likely to be at least as great as that which occurred in the second half of 1980," says Mr. Nicholas Schofield, a senior partner.

He estimates that in the 12 months to the end of next March, Henry Butcher will have handled sales of used plant and equipment totalling £20m. This compares with £8m in 1979/80 *and £5m in 1978/79. Since* March 1980, auctions and private treaty sales have raised £15m.

With the volume of machinery being sold fro scrap rising sharply — and with major customers like British Steel Corporation cutting production — factory-gate prices for scrap steel have fallen from around £45 a tonne at the beginning of *the yea rto around £10 a tonne.*

However, while prices at the bottom end of the market have fallen steeply, those for more modern precision machine tools have proved surprisingly resilient and in some cases have risen, at least in line with inflation.

Overseas purchasers have been more reluctant to pay premiums, as they also have to meet additional shipping costs and, in some cases, local duty charges, to acquire their goods. In addition, the high exchange rate of sterling makes *such* purchases relatively costly.

Industrial Plants Corporation, *which arranged several auctions* and sales during the rationalisation and subsequent closure of Singer's Clydebank works, said notable overseas purchasers this year included South African and Israeli buyers, while West Germans, French and Italian companies were also selective

The extent of the export market is difficult to ascertain *but Alkron Packers, the Black*burn-based exporters which has handled an average of 300 tonnes of second-hand machinery a week in 1980 for shipment to overseas markets, says total exports have been running at several thousand tonnes a week.

Airliner sales

Continued from Page 1

(£3.4bn) exceeding 1979's total of 317 new orders, worth $6.5bn.

The best-selling jet was the short-range Boeing 737, of which 100 were ordered compared with 76 in 1979. Sales of medium-range 727s totalled 83 (against 110), while 44 of the bigger long-range Boeing 747 Jumbo jets were sold, against 79.

Sales of the new-generation jets, the medium-range Boeing 767 and the short-range 757, also began to gather momentum, with 72 of the 757s being ordered (the Delta order for 60 gave sales a big boost) and 26 of the 767s sold.

The other significant feature of the year was the continued rapid rise of Airbus Industrie, the European group which includes British Aerospace) building the 250-seat A-300 and smaller 200-seat A-310

Airbus Industrie won firm orders for 50 Airbuses during 1980, with options on another 36 aircraft. These 86 aircraft collectively were worth over $3bn.

This was below the previous year's sales of 221 Airbuses, but it is nevertheless a major achievement, keeping Airbus Industrie in second place after Boeing in the world jet airliner manufacturing league.

Weather

UK TODAY

COLD. Early frost. Dry and bright. Later, clouds and rain in W., preceded by snow in N., showers in E.

London, Midlands, C.S. and C.N. England, Channel

Dry. Bright intervals. Max. 5-7C (41-45F).

Rest of England and Wales, I.o.M.

Dry. Bright intervals. Rain and cloudy later. Max. 5-8C (41-46F).

Scotland and N. Ireland

Patchy fog. Snow and rain. Max. 4-7C (39-45F).

Orkney and Shetland

Bright intervals. Showers. Max. 4C (39F).

Outlook: cloudy, mild, rain in places, dry in S., becoming colder in N.

WORLDWIDE

	Y'day midday	°C	°F		Y'day midday	°C	°F
Ajaccio	C	12	54	Locarno	S	15	59
Algiers	S	16	61	London	S	7	45
Amsdm.	F	6	43	L. Ang.†	S	14	57
Athens	R	9	48	Luxmbg.	C	6	43
Bahrain	S	22	72	Luxor	C	19	66
Barclna.	S	11	52	Madrid	S	10	50
Beirut	C	18	64	Majorca	R	12	54
Belfast	C	3	37	Malaga	S	16	61
Belgrd.	Fg	0	32	Malta	C	15	59
Berlin	F	5	41	M'chstr	C	4	39
Biarritz	C	10	50	Melbne.	S	25	77
Bhghm.	S	5	41	Miami†	S	9	48
Blackpl.	S	5	41	Milan	S	6	43
Bordx.	F	9	48	Montrl†	Sn	−19	−2
Boulgn.	F	5	41	Moscow	R	3	37
Bristol	S	5	41	Munich	C	4	39
Brussels	C	5	41	Nairobi	F	25	77
Budpst.	Fg	2	36	Naples	S	8	46
Cairo	C	16	61	Nwcstl.	F	3	37
Cardiff	F	5	41	N York†	S	−13	8
Cas'b'ca	S	16	61	Nice	S	11	52
Cape T.	S	25	77	Nicosia	S	19	66
Chicg.†	Sn	−12	10	Oporto	S	10	50
Cologne	C	6	41	Oslo	C	−4	25
Cpnhgn.	S	4	39	Paris	R	4	39
Corfu	S	14	57	Perth	C	22	72
Denver†	S	4	39	Prague	S	4	39
Dublin	C	3	37	Reykjvk.	S	−9	16
Dubrvnk.	S	13	55	Rhodes	S	17	63
Ednbgh.	S	2	36	Rome	C	9	48
Faro	S	16	61	Salzbrg.	C	1	34
Florence	S	5	41	S'cisco†	C	8	46
Frankft.	C	4	39	Singapr.	C	29	84
Funchal	S	19	66	Stckhm.	C	2	36
Geneva	C	4	39	Strasbg.	C	6	43
Gibrltr.	S	17	63	Sydney	S	27	81
Glsgw.	Sn	2	36	Tangier	S	16	61
G'nsey	F	7	45	Tel Aviv	R	17	63
Helsinki	C	0	32	Tenerife	S	14	57
H. Kong	C	19	66	Tokyo	S	11	52
Innsbrk.	C	1	34	T'r'nto†	Sn	−10	14
Invrnss	Sn	2	36	Tunis	C	15	59
I.o.Man	C	5	41	Valencia	C	16	61
Istanbul	S	11	52	Venice	C	3	37
Jersey	F	7	45	Vienna	C	2	36
Jo'burg	F	25	77	Warsaw	C	4	39
L. Plms.	S	20	68	Zurich	C	3	37
Lisbon	S	14	57				

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. Fg—Fog. R—Rain. S—Sunny. Sn—Snow. † Noon GMT temperatures.

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